

Academic Year/Term Guidelines by U.S. Dept of ED

- Minimum academic year must = 30 weeks + 24 credit hours.
(Barton's definition = 30 weeks + 30 credit hours)
- A semester must be 15 – 17 weeks.
(Exception: Summer may be less.)
- Courses may overlap start/end dates by two weeks.
(That is two weeks total – not four weeks!)
- If any course falls outside of the two week limit – the school is automatically non-term and must operate as such.
- Academic programs may have different academic years.
(e.g. Natural Gas, MLT, Liberal Studies, etc.)
- Different versions of the same academic program may have different academic years.
(e.g. BOL, EduKan, LSC, F2F, etc.)
- May have modules or parts of term within the term.
- Ineligible programs/ineligible students – not restricted.
(e.g. Military certificates, incarcerated students)
- May pay federal aid for standalone intersession.
(i.e. Standalone Winter Intersession may attach to either fall or spring)
- May use Pell Formula 1 under these rules.
- **Basic rule – respect the integrity of the start/end dates!**