

Mount Mary College (MMC)
Frequently Asked Questions about What to Expect in an Accelerated Course
(revised 5/16/2011)

You have received this handout because you will be taking an accelerated course. Please read through the questions/answers carefully. If you have not taken an accelerated course before, you are strongly encouraged to attend the Orientation for Accelerated Learning (usually Thursday evenings) prior to the start of the term. If you have any additional questions, contact Beth Vogel, Accelerated Program Coordinator, at (414) 258-4810 x476 or vogelb@mtmary.edu.

When does my accelerated course start?

The start date of your accelerated course is listed on your class schedule. Log into *My Mount Mary* to get a copy of your schedule. If your course begins in August (Term 1) or January (Term 3) it begins **before** the regular semester. You are responsible for knowing when your course begins.

Do I need to do anything before the accelerated course starts?

Yes, you must obtain your textbook and the course syllabus **prior** to the first class. Most courses have an assignment **due the 1st night of class or even before the class begins**. The syllabi, for the term that will be starting next, are available about 2 weeks before the start of the first class. A paper copy of the syllabus can be picked up in the bookstore or a pdf copy can be obtained by logging into *My Mount Mary*. Under the My Academics tab, click on E-racer, and then All My Courses. If the course does not show up in your list of “current” courses then from the drop down menu choose “future” courses. A course does not show up as current until two weeks before the course is to begin.

How often do the accelerated courses meet?

Accelerated courses meet in five 8-week terms each year. An accelerated course will meet 8 weeks or 4 weeks, rather than the traditional 15-week semester. Courses meet one night a week, or on a Saturday morning. However, the accelerated course content is the same as a 15-week course. This means that even though time spent in the classroom is reduced, the material you are expected to learn is **not** reduced. You, the student, are responsible for the independent learning outside of classroom. It is very important to MMC that the integrity of the course not be diminished just because the delivery of the course has changed.

How much time will I need to spend on course work?

The typical rule of thumb for a regular semester course is 2 hours for every hour of class per week. For an accelerated course you should expect 4 hours for every hour of class per week. So for example, if you are taking a 3 credit accelerated course you should expect to have 12 hours of study and homework per week. The amount of course work varies from class to class. You are spending less time in the classroom, so more responsibility is put on you to handle the independent study workload.

If you are taking more than one accelerated course in a term, it is your responsibility to keep up with your course work. Taking more than one accelerated course in a term is not an excuse for incomplete or late course assignments.

Will there be group work?

Yes, some courses do require group work and presentations. You are expected to meet outside of class with your group members.

Do I need to attend all classes?

Students are expected to attend all classes. If you are unable to attend a class for any reason, contact the teacher ahead of time. You are responsible for making up missed work, obtaining class notes and making arrangements, **ahead of time**, if you will be missing an exam.

What if I am unable to attend the 1st class?

If you are enrolled in a 4-week course, and do not attend the 1st class, you will be withdrawn from the course, **regardless of the impact on your financial aid**. Missing the first class not only means that you have missed 25% of the course, but that you have missed the expectations of the course, explanations of projects, setting up of teams, etc.

If you are enrolled in an 8-week course, and do not attend the 1st and 2nd classes, you will be withdrawn from the course, **regardless of the impact on your financial aid**. Missing the first two classes not only means that you have missed 25% of the course, but that you have missed the expectations of the course, explanations of projects, setting up of teams etc.

What if I can only attend half of the class?

If you can only attend half of the class talk with the teacher before the class begins. Teachers are required to note when a student is absent, even if it is for only ½ of the class.

If I miss a class, what effect does that have on the grade I earn?

Each teacher sets the grading policy for their particular class. It is very common for attendance and class participation to be a component of your total grade. However, if you miss two classes of an 8-week course, or one class of a 4-week course, the teacher, at a minimum, is required to lower your grade one letter grade; e.g. from a “B” to a “BC.” This is a requirement of the accelerated program and there are no exceptions. There are no such things as “excused” absences. If class participation is a large part of the grade in a particular course, your grade may even be lowered more than one letter grade. Missing four ½ classes counts as two full classes missed.

If you miss 3 classes of an 8-week course, or 2 classes of a 4-week course, you will automatically earn an F in the course unless you withdraw from the class before the published deadline.

What is the latest that I can drop a class and not receive an F?

If you are taking a 4-week course you may drop the course prior to the start date and it will not appear on your record. If you withdraw after the 1st or 2nd class you will receive a “W” on your transcript. Once the 3rd class session has begun a student may not withdraw.

If you are taking an 8-week course you may drop the course anytime prior to the start of the 2nd class session and it will not appear on your record. If you withdraw after the 2nd class has begun, but before the 7th session has begun, you will receive a “W” on your transcript. A student may not withdraw once the 7th session has begun.

What if I don’t understand my course assignments?

If you don’t understand your course assignments, or are unclear about what is expected, contact your teacher immediately. Do not wait until the next time class meets. The teacher assumes that you have done your assignments and are prepared for class. You do not have the time in an accelerated course to “catch up” next week. The Academic Resource Center is also available to help students with tutoring. This is a free service for to all MMC students.

What happens if a class is cancelled due to the school closing or teacher illness?

It is a requirement of the accelerated program that, if an accelerated class is cancelled, the class time must be made up. Your instructor will determine a make up night/Saturday with the class on the first night of class.