

# 7-Week Classes Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is a 7-week class?

The 7-week class format breaks the standard 15-week semester into two terms that are 7 weeks each.

7-week classes offer the same quality of teaching, support, and content as traditional 15-week classes but in a more compact time frame.

## Are there advantages to taking 7-week classes?

One of the primary advantages of 7-week classes is that students can focus on fewer classes during one 7-week term.

Additionally, research has shown that students in 7-week classes:

- Have higher class success rates
- Have higher completion rates
- Progress more quickly to a degree

## How do I search for and identify 7-week classes?

To learn which 7-week classes are offered this year:

1. Visit the [Class Finder](#) tool.
2. Click the drop-down arrow under TERM PART
3. Select the check box for the term you wish to view

For help using the Class Finder, watch [this video](#) (2:04).

Note: First 7-week classes end with section number 60 (i.e., ADMN-1310-W60). Second 7-week classes end with section number 70 (i.e., ADMN-1310-W70).

7-week classes can be offered in-person, online, or in hybrid or virtual formats. Always check to make sure you know what type of course you are registered for.

## What types of courses are offered in a 7-week format?

Both 7-week and 15-week courses may be offered in a variety of formats, including:

- **On-Campus:** Course meets regularly in-person on a Nashville State campus. Check to make sure you know which campus your course meets on.
- **Online:** Course is fully online and has no on-campus meeting requirements.
- **Virtual:** Course meets live via Zoom at a set date and time.
- **Hybrid:** Course uses a combination of virtual instruction, and some required on-campus meetings.

Always check to make sure you know what type of course you are registered for.

## How will taking 7-week classes affect my financial aid?

Tuition cost is the same whether taking classes in 7-week or 15-week terms.

### Student Engagement

Nashville State will continue to disburse your financial aid based on engagement in classes. This means that we will only disburse the aid for the classes required for graduation in your current major that you have started as of the census date (14th calendar day of classes). We will subsequently disburse the aid for the second session classes once they have begun and engagement has been reported by instructors.

### Adding Classes

To determine if adding classes after the census date will result in an increase to your specific awards, you will need to email [financial.aid@nsc.edu](mailto:financial.aid@nsc.edu).

For the following funds, we will "freeze" your enrollment hours at the census date (14th calendar day of the term) and will not increase the amounts for classes added after census: Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized student loans, TSAA Grant, Hope Lottery Scholarship.

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship and Tennessee Reconnect Grant programs do not follow the census date rules and may be potentially increased due to later registration for in-program classes.

### Bookstore Charges

Charging for the bookstore will still be only during the published charging period, so be sure to charge your books (if you are eligible to do so) during this period.

[Learn More About Nashville State Financial Aid](#)

## What should I consider when planning a 7-week schedule?

Anytime you are planning for a future semester, we encourage you to talk to your advisor to assist you in creating a schedule that best meets your needs.

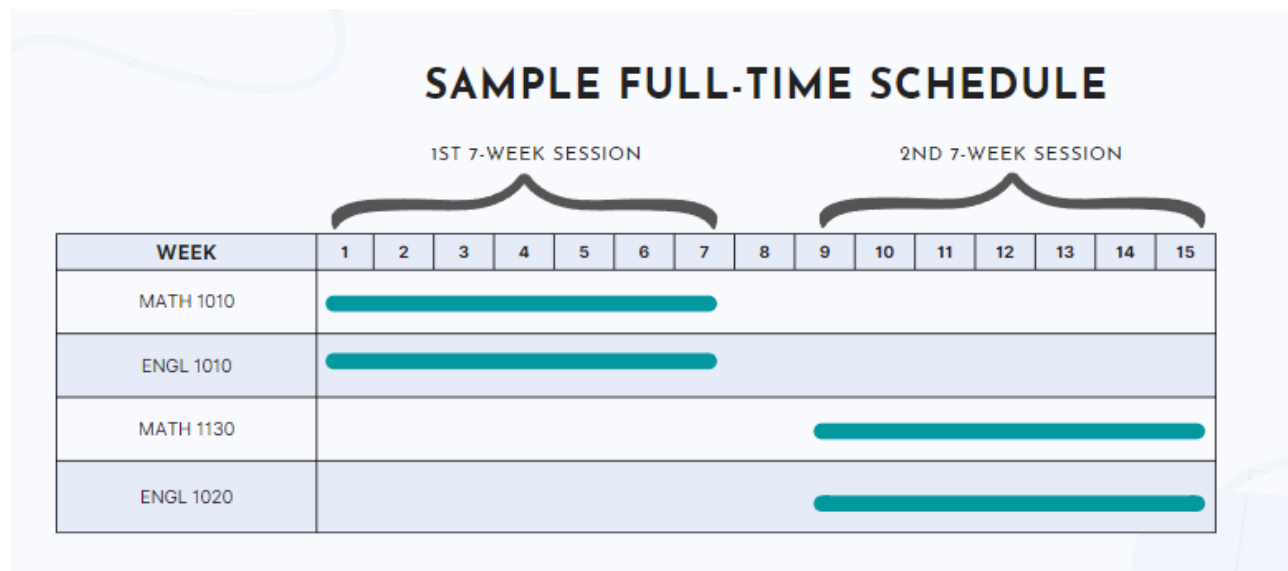
- Creating a balanced schedule is extremely important for academic success.
- The number of classes you take will vary based on whether you are full- or part-time and will depend on your program of study.
- 7-week classes are of the same rigor and equate to the same overall instructional time and required study hours as 15-week classes but in a more compact format.

- In general, it is recommended that a student take no more than two 7-week classes at the same time and no more than a total of four 7-week classes over the course of a 15-week semester.
- Part-time students who work a full-time job are strongly advised to take only one 7-week class at a time.
- Students, in consultation with their student success advisor, are encouraged to register for the entire semester (both 7-week terms) prior to the start of the semester.
- Students who take advantage of early registration have the best selection of classes. Failing to register for the entire semester could result in a loss of financial aid.

## What would a 7-week schedule look like?

A **full-time** student who might normally take 4 classes per semester would generally take 2 classes in the first 7-week term and another 2 classes in the second 7-week term. A total of 4 classes would be completed during the semester, but there will be fewer courses to focus on at any one time.

While a student will take fewer classes per term, the time spent in-class and for out of class studies will roughly double.



Similarly, a **part-time** student who normally takes 3 classes per semester might choose to take 2 classes in the 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week term and 1 class in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term. They would still complete 3 classes total that semester.

**SAMPLE PART-TIME SCHEDULE**

1ST 7-WEEK SESSION                      2ND 7-WEEK SESSION

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
ENGL 1010	████████████████████															
ART 1035	████████████████████															
MATH 1010									████████████████████							

**Note:** Students should never register for all 4 classes during one 7-week term.

Please consult [your advisor](#) for additional guidance when creating your course schedule.

### Can I still take a 15-week class if I am taking a 7-week class?

Based on course availability, you may be able to take a combination of 7- and 15-week classes.

The Nashville State class schedule will continue to offer some 15-week classes. If you have questions about course offerings, please check the 7-week and 15-week class offerings in the [Class Schedule](#) and see your Student Success Advisor or Faculty Advisor.

### How do digital course materials work for a 7-week term?

Digital course materials (DCM) are attached to the specific section of the course you are registered for. The digital textbook rental process is the same for 7- and 15-week courses. However, if you drop a 7-week class in the 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week term, you may need to pay for the course materials again if you register for the same class in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term.

For more information, go to the [Digital Course Materials](#) page.

## What are some student success tips for 7-Week classes?

- It is important to be engaged in 7-week courses from day one! Starting strong and making sure you have everything you need (textbooks, login information, etc.) before you begin is key to your success.
- Schedule and manage your time wisely. Plan to spend 12-18 hours per week per course studying outside of class. Share your commitment with family and friends.
- If your course is online, make sure you log in and participate in the course at least every other day.
- Apply the same success rules you would for any type of course.
  - Use a planner to keep track of your classes, due dates, and important events.
  - Check NS Online and your Nashville State student email regularly for updates.
  - Take good notes.
  - Participate in class by engaging in class discussions and getting to know your classmates.
  - Have your textbooks on the first day of class.
  - Get to know your teacher.

## How does the 7-week format impact veterans?

There is not a one-size fits all when it comes to Veteran Educational Benefits. Veteran students may have 12 credit hours in total: however, VA processes enrollments by the beginning and ending dates. Veterans are paid based on their rate of pursuit.

With our 7-week classes, veterans will be considered full-time if they are registered for at least six credit hours in the 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week term and six credit hours in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term.

Veterans will not be paid aid for the break in-between sessions.

Please email the Nashville State VA Coordinator at [VA.Coordinator@nsc.edu](mailto:VA.Coordinator@nsc.edu) more information.

### 7-week classes affect veteran students in three ways:

1. The student's tuition and fees payments are not released until classes start, so the student will sometimes have to wait until the last 7 weeks to receive any refunds for financial aid.
2. Students must have an in-person class for the 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week term and the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term to qualify for the full housing allowance.
3. 7-week courses are considered a new enrollment, so students that exhaust their education benefits during the 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week term will not qualify for benefits during their 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term of classes.

- a. The VA will allow students with one week of education benefits remaining to enroll in classes, and they will payout benefits to cover the duration of their enrollment. The last 7 weeks of courses are considered separate enrollment and will not qualify for payment under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

## What happens if I fall behind in a 7-week class?

Contact your instructor immediately so you can work together to determine the best plan of action.

If withdrawing from the course is the best option, consider the following:

- Check with Financial Aid to determine the impact of dropping and/or re-enrolling for a course in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term.
- If you wish to re-enroll in a course for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week term, special permission is needed to register. Contact the Division office for assistance in registering for 1<sup>st</sup> 7-week course.
- Additional fees for textbooks may be incurred when dropping and re-registering for a 7-week course. Check with your instructor to determine if you will need to purchase new materials when re-registering for a class. For information on digital course materials, go to the [Digital Course Materials](#) page.

## Will 7-week classes transfer?

Yes! Taking a class in a 7-week format will not impact the transferability of a class.

A student's transcript will look identical whether they take a class in a 7-week format or a 15-week format.

The name of the class and the number of credits assigned to that class will remain the same.

## Do 7-week classes have a final exam week?

If you are enrolled in a 7-week class with a final exam, it will be administered on the last regularly scheduled meeting date.

There is no formal "exam week" for 7-week classes.

## Still have questions not listed here?

Please reach out to your advisor.