

Accelerated Core Curriculum: Expanding Student Success (ACCESS)

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Project Background

At UWG, students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree must successfully complete 120 hours to graduate, and students pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) must complete 132. With our average freshman student attempting about 14 semester hours per term but earning just 12.5, it can take a B.A. student almost five years to complete a degree program and 5.5 years for a B.F.A. student, assuming the student is able to continue to take a full course load each semester.

Student Profiles

20 pre-BFA Block Students:

Average SAT verbal score: 477
Average SAT math score: 477
Average high school GPA: 3.14

24 BA Block Students:

Average SAT verbal score: 486
Average SAT math score: 445
Average high school GPA: 2.94



Project Impact on Completion

ACCESS will provide the structure and peer support that will help students succeed in their first two semesters at UWG, even as they take an increased number of credit hours. At the end of their freshman year, students will be on track for graduating in four years, increasing the likelihood that they will return their sophomore year and maintain a full-time schedule.

Project Synopsis

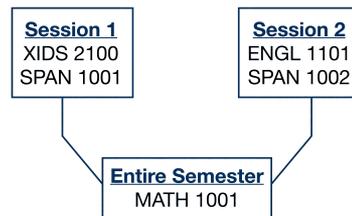
The ACCESS program places students in a structured schedule format that enables them to increase the average number of credit hours they take in their freshman year, thus putting them on track to graduate in four years. For this project, we created two schedules: one for students who are pursuing a BA degree and one for students who are planning to pursue a BFA. Students in the B.A. program earn 30 hours their first two semesters, and students in the pre-B.F.A. program earn 36.

What We Know So Far...

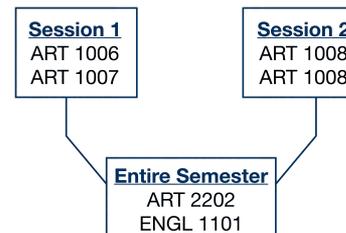
- Faculty have expressed satisfaction with the more intensive classes
- Students like being able to fit in more classes during a semester
- The majority of ACCESS students who responded to a survey said they have not experienced any difficulties in the block classes that they would not have experienced in a full-semester class
- The majority of ACCESS students surveyed indicated that they would recommend the block to future freshmen.

Fall 2014 Course Schedules

BA Cohort



BFA Cohort



UNIVERSITY of
West Georgia

**College of Arts
and Humanities**

