Academic Year

Summer Session

Summer session is an avenue for graduate students to accelerate their programs or complete necessary coursework. Elective and required courses are offered in a variety of time frames. Travel and other unique courses, including short, intensive workshops, are part of the summer program.

Visiting students, professionals and individuals from the community are admitted under an open enrollment policy.

Note: University College considers summer to be part of the academic year. The Summer Quarter is ten weeks long.

Interterm

Interterm is the time period prior to each academic quarter, during which short, on-campus and travel courses are offered. Hours completed in interterm are applied as credit toward graduation requirements. Students register for interterm classes through the Special Community Programs office.

Note: Some units may have specific requirements about the maximum number of interterm hours which may be applied toward the degree. Contact the unit for details.

Attendance

Students must officially enroll for the courses they attend. A student cannot receive credit or a grade for a course without being enrolled in it.

Instructors have the right and responsibility to establish attendance policies for their courses.

Students are responsible for informing instructors about their absence from class and for completing assignments given during their absence.

Religious Accommodations and Class Attendance

Faculty, staff, student organizations and other programming groups are strongly urged to be mindful of major holy days in their scheduling. A list of the most-frequently observed religious holidays can be found at: http://portfolio.du.edu/religiouslife. Please note this list is meant to be inclusive of most major religious traditions (although certainly not comprehensive) and religious holidays have no official status at DU.

University policy grants students excused absences from class or other organized activities for observance of religious holy days, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship. Faculty are asked to be responsive to requests when students contact them in advance to request such an excused absence. Students are responsible for completing assignments given during their absence, but should be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance.

Once a student has registered for a class, the student is expected to examine the course syllabus for potential conflicts with holy days and to notify the instructor by the end of the first week of classes of any conflicts that may require an absence (including any required additional preparation/travel time). The student is also expected to remind the faculty member in advance of the missed class, and to make arrangements in advance with the faculty member to make up any missed work or in-class material within a reasonable amount of time.

Examples of reasonable accommodations for student absences might include: rescheduling of an exam or giving a make-up exam for the student in question; altering the time of a student’s presentation; allowing extra-credit assignments to substitute for missed class work or arranging for an increased flexibility in assignment due dates; releasing a graduate assistant from teaching or research responsibilities, etc. The student must be given the opportunity to do appropriate make-up work that is equivalent and intrinsically no more difficult than the original exam or assignment. Faculty should keep in mind that religion is a deeply personal and private matter and should make every attempt to respect the privacy of the student when making accommodations (for example, it is not appropriate to announce to the class that a student is doing a presentation or making up an exam at a later date because of their religious observance).

If a student and course instructor cannot agree on an accommodation, the student may bring the matter to the department chair for a decision. Additional resources in resolving disagreements over accommodations include the University Chaplain, the Center for Multicultural Excellence, and the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity. If there is still no agreement, the student may bring the matter to the school or college dean’s office, where a final decision will be made. Students who believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of religion by the denial of a requested religious accommodation may contact the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity to learn about filing a discrimination complaint.

Final Exams

Any final exam for a course must be scheduled during the final exam period. Each quarter, the Office of the Registrar posts the final exam schedule on its website at www.du.edu/registrar. Students must attend all final exams as scheduled by faculty. Students are expected to let their instructors know when they have more than one exam being held at the same time. The Office of the Registrar will attempt to resolve conflicts whenever possible. Final exams are not changed to accommodate student travel plans, and students should only plan travel after the official end date of the term.
Campus Weather Closures

Sometimes severe storms may create such a hazard that the University makes a decision to close and cancel operations for a period of time. Students can receive information about campus weather closures by registering for the Critical Incident Notification System (http://bulletin.du.edu/graduate/criticalnotificationsystem). The University of Denver homepage will also be updated to reflect a closure due to severe weather.