

Tips for Accelerated Courses

All the online courses offered online during winter session and many summer session courses are “accelerated.” Accelerated courses usually run four, six, or eight weeks, but they contain the same content as a traditional 15-week course. Accelerated courses operate at a faster pace than traditional length courses, and it is common to have weekly (if not daily) assignments, quizzes, or exams. As such, it is important to keep up with the coursework and to commit to going online daily.

For example, winter session courses run for around four weeks. Essentially, this is 90 hours of in-class and out-of-class time compressed into four weeks, which means you should plan to spend a minimum of 20-25 hours a week on this course.

The same strategies for doing well in semester length online courses also apply to accelerated courses. Here are a few tips for online success:

Organization

Read the syllabus! At the beginning of the course, take note of all assignments and exams. Keep track of due dates and plan time for coursework into your schedule.

Time management

You should allocate time every day to complete your readings or assignments. If you fall behind in an accelerated course, it becomes almost impossible to catch up.

Engagement

Actively participate in your online course. This includes contributing to discussion boards, emailing your professor, and checking your SLU email daily.

Focus

You may be balancing multiple responsibilities while taking your accelerated course. Make the most of your study time by setting up a distraction-free work zone.

Take a Break

Don't forget to include some downtime in your schedule to help you recharge. This will give you a boost to tackle your next task!

Things to Consider

Is the course foundational for your major?

Because of the accelerated pace, retention can be a problem. It might be better to take the course during the regular semester or a longer summer session.

Do you have the time to commit to the course?

If you are going on vacation or will be without internet for several days over break, it will be hard to keep up with the pace of coursework.

Do you have the drive to complete the course?

Online learning, in general, requires self-motivation. This is especially true in an accelerated format.

If you decide to enroll in an accelerated course, be sure to take advantage of all the student resources available. You can find more information on the [SLU Distance Education Student Resources website](#).