

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.

Accelerated online courses may not work for everyone. Here are some factors 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.