

Course Scheduling Matrix Committee
Fall 2014

Course Scheduling Matrix Committee Members:

Joe Rankin, Chair, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

Linda Falkiewicz, Registrar

Boris Baltes, Chair, Department of Psychology

Michelle Grimm, Interim Director, Transfer Student Success Center

Erin Bachert, ASO, Department of Chemistry

Robert Aguirre, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Gabriel Sauvie, Course Scheduling Manager, Registrar's Office

Tarek Bazzi, Student

Joseph Bradfield, ex officio, Intern

Charge to the Committee: To make a recommendation to the Provost on how Wayne State University might simplify and clarify our course scheduling matrix based on best practices. The goal is to make our scheduling matrix less complicated such that we do not have so many overlapping course schedules, thus reducing time to degree completion.

Involvement and feedback will be sought from:

Faculty (Academic Senate)

Council of Deans

Student Senate

Issues with the current scheduling matrix:

- Start time shift every hour is confusing to both students and instructors
- Matrix built around a one-hour time block M-W-F course schedule
 - Yet 1.5 hour option is most prevalent time block requested
- Too many course scheduling possibilities creating
 - Inefficient room utilization
 - Difficulty for students to plan a course schedule
- Many courses scheduled off-matrix
 - Evening schedules vary greatly
 - Many day classes taught off-matrix
 - Complicates the scheduling of final exams

Issues for Discussion:

- Create a simpler course scheduling matrix
 - Schedule class start times to begin on the hour and half hour
 - Schedule one-hour classes for 50 minutes rather than 55 minutes
 - This is in line with other Michigan public universities
 - This is consistent with our WSU definition of a credit hour
 - Enable us to improve the final exam schedule
 - Will help to identify off-matrix courses and ensure compliance with new matrix

- Increase the number of course schedule matrix options for classes that run 1.5 and 2.0 hours per meeting
 - Few courses run on a three-meetings per week schedule (M-W-F)
 - Consider M-W and T-R blocks of time as the norm
 - 2 hour blocks would probably cover two 1-hour blocks, and a 3-hour block could cover either two 1.5-hour blocks or three 1-hour blocks
- Consider regularizing the evening class blocks
 - Might allow students to take more than one class in the evenings
- Consider formalizing “breaks” for students in 2, 3 and 4 hour block classes
- How should lab courses be scheduled? Differently from lecture courses?
- Friday course scheduling
 - 3 or 4 hour block courses?
 - Lab days?
 - Many math and science courses currently run MTWF, possibly to allow Thursdays to be left open for labs. Is there a pedagogical reason for doing so? Need to investigate if a MTWR schedule would be pedagogically acceptable
 - Other?
- Provide an avenue for exceptions to policy, such as
 - PAS (performing arts studio)?
 - Science labs and other labs?
 - Professional schools with their own classrooms, such as Pharmacy and Law?
- Implementation
 - How and when can we implement the final changes?