FAQs - Winter Intersession 2015-2016

What is Winter Intersession?
A part of the Spring Semester, Winter Intersession is a condensed course schedule of 3 credits, primarily general education classes. A Winter Intersession course will allow you to satisfy requirements for your degree and will help you spring forward to graduation. Students are encouraged to register for one (1) but are advised to register for no more than two (2) 3.0 credit courses during Winter Intersession. There are 10 session of classes which are condensed and taught in 4 hour class blocks.

What courses are offered and when will courses be held?
ECC is offering a number of general education courses that meet many degree requirements. View a complete list of available courses at www.essex.edu. Classes meet for 10 sessions: (December 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 & January 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) in the Main building, 2nd Floor.

Who can register for Intersession classes?  What about "prerequisites" for a course?
Continuing students in good academic standing who have met the pre-requisite requirements can register for Intersession courses.
Non-matriculated students who have met the pre-requisite requirements can also register, however, they must first fill out an admission application in Enrollment Services and provide transcripts to show pre-requisites are met. Applications will be accepted until 4 pm, December 21, 2015. Prerequisites for each course can be found in the online College Catalog, www.essex.edu/onlinecatalog

Who might benefit from taking a Winter Intersession course?
There are many students who can benefit from taking a short-term condensed class. Students who are looking to spring forward to graduating on time and need to take a general education class. Students who received a non-passing grade in an offered general education course can re-take a course; since they are already familiar with the course content, they will hopefully succeed in the condensed timeframe. Students who are looking to quickly earn credits in a required general education course, or who are looking to "lighten their Spring 2016 academic course load," may benefit from taking a Winter Intersession course.

Is there a maximum amount of credits I can take during Winter Intersession?
Students are encouraged to register for one (1) but are advised to register for no more than two (2) 3.0 credit courses during Winter Intersession.

I've never taken a Winter Intersession course, what can I expect?
Winter Intersession classes are being offered weekdays from December 22 – January 8 in ten (10) class sessions of 4-hour time blocks for each session. The classes are offered in the morning, afternoon or evening. It is important that students attend ALL classes. Because of the condensed schedule, missing one class is equivalent to missing almost two weeks of a regular fall/spring semester class. To support your success in the class, a computer lab will be open in the Main building every day classes are in session.

What do I do if there is a hold/restriction on my record?
Students who have hold/restriction on their records must contact the office that placed the hold on their record and reconcile the situation with that office before enrolling.

When can I register?
Web (Online) Registration, login to webservices.essex.edu: November 16 – December 21.
In-person Registration at the Enrollment Services Department: November 16 – December 21 (9 am – 4 pm)
If you register online, your tuition bill and class schedule is posted in Web Services. If you register in-person, you will be given a printed tuition bill and class schedule.

How much will the courses cost?
Students will be billed tuition by credit in accordance with the college tuition and fee schedule. Additional information about tuition and fees is available online at http://www.essex.edu/bursar/tuition/
Once I register, when do I have to pay for the Winter Intersession courses?

Non-Financial Aid Students:
If you register for Winter Intersession ONLY, full payment is due by December 21, 2015.
If you register for Winter Intersession AND Spring I 2016 classes by December 21, 2015, you can combine both terms and choose the Payment Plan option which requires a minimum payment of 1/4 of the total bill and a $50 plan enrollment fee. Payments can be made online through Web Services or at the Bursar's Office.

Financial Aid Students: Students must have been awarded financial aid and registered for the Winter Intersession AND Spring 2016 semester by December 18, 2015. Otherwise, students must be prepared to make a payment on their tuition bill and pay for books.

Can a student receive financial aid for Winter Intersession?
Yes, however, a student must be registered for both the Winter Intersession AND the Spring I 2016 Semester in order to qualify for financial aid for the Winter Intersession. If you are awarded aid for the Spring I 2016 your financial aid award will be used to cover your Winter Intersession course(s). A student’s combined enrollment (for Winter Intersession AND Spring I 2016) must be at least half-time (at least 6 credits) and the student must be meeting all of the general requirements for federal and state aid eligibility.

What can I do if I don’t have financial aid available for Winter Intersession?
Students must complete and file a FAFSA at fafsa.gov to be considered for aid. If you have not filed your FAFSA, you must do so immediately, but, be prepared to pay your own tuition and fees. Remember, you must be registered for both the Winter Intersession AND the Spring I 2016 Semester in order to qualify for financial aid for the Winter Intersession. Three to five (3-5) days after you file your FAFSA, you must go to myecc.essex.edu to check to see if your file is complete. If you have been required to submit documents to the Office of Financial Aid, you must submit all missing information immediately. You must allow 6-8 weeks processing time for the office to determine your eligibility status.

Will I be eligible for a Book Voucher?
Yes, if you are registered for both Winter Intersession AND Spring I 2016 classes. Book vouchers will be available online to students who have been awarded aid and have funds remaining after all tuition and fee charges are paid in full. Book Vouchers will be available at myecc.essex.edu beginning December 15, 2015.

Where can I get my Book Voucher?
Log in into myecc.essex.edu and click on the Book Voucher tab to the right of the screen to retrieve your voucher. Remember, you will only have a book voucher if you have funds remaining from your award(s) after all charges are paid in full for the Winter Session AND Spring I 2016 Semester. You must register for both the Winter Session AND Spring I 2016 to be eligible for a Book Voucher.

Will the bookstore be open? When can I get my books for winter classes?
In addition to the regular hours, the College Bookstore will be open until 6:30pm on December 22 & 23, 2015.

How is my aid affected if I decide not to attend the Winter Intersession after I register?
You must drop the course no later than December 23, 2015 for the Winter Intersession in order to receive a 100% refund. Students who have not officially dropped their courses by that date will be responsible for the entire tuition for the Winter Intersession. You are also responsible for full payment of your bill if you are reported for not attending (“No Show”) the classes you enroll in for the Winter Intersession.

Can I audit a course during Winter Session?
Students who are interested in taking a course for audit should inform the class instructor or program coordinator by December 28, 2015.
If I register and decide not to attend courses for Winter Intersession, what should I do?
If you decide not to attend Winter Session after registering, you must officially drop the Winter Intersession class by December 23, 2015. If you stopped attending without officially dropping the class, your instructor will report you as a ‘No-show’ and you will be responsible for the tuition and fees. Not attending classes does not constitute a class drop.

Will I receive a refund if I decide to drop or withdraw from Winter Intersession?
If the course is dropped by December 23, 2015 tuition and fees will be refunded at 100%. No refund will be issued after this date.

When is the last day to Withdraw from a Winter Intersession course?
The Last Day to Withdraw from a Winter Intersession course to receive a ‘W’ grade is January 4, 2016.

Will an Intersession class count toward my degree?
Yes, as long as it fulfills the requirements for your degree or certificate program, it will count toward your degree or certificate. Students who complete their degree or certificate requirement during the Winter Intersession will have a December graduation date. If you are not sure, ask your advisor.

When will my grade be posted?
Grades can be accessed through Web Services starting January 14, 2016.

What student services will be in operation during Intersession?
The College is officially closed from December 24 through January 1, 2016, which means that academic support staff departments will not be open during this time. To assist and support the Winter Intersession students, there will be a Coordinator and support staff members available in the Center for Health Science (CHS) building, Main Office (973-877-1868) 9:00 am – 7:00 pm and the Computer Labs (Room 2117A & B) will be open from 9:00 am – 9:30 pm, each day of the Winter Intersession.

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