

Guidance on Financial Aid Regulations and Class Scheduling Rules

Typical UWL course section dates must fall within the financial aid term date ranges listed in **Table 1** for the course to be eligible for aid. Exceptions may apply. Contact your department’s designated Scheduling Coordinator in the Records and Registration Office regarding any exceptions.

Table 1

Term	Earliest Date Course May Begin	Latest Date Course May End	Standard Term Length in weeks
Fall	September 1	December 31	15
Winter	January 1	Before Summer term official start date (exact date in May varies)	3 (18 combined with Spring)
Spring	Spring term official start date (exact date in January varies)	Before Summer term official start date (exact date in May varies)	15 (18 combined with Winter)
Summer	Summer term official start date (exact date in May varies)	August 31	12

Other important considerations:

- Semesters can be 14 - 21 weeks in length. UWL semesters are not equal in length for financial aid purposes, and that is allowed. A semester is defined by the first class date that starts that term and the end date of the class that ends last.
 - The standard Fall term is 15 weeks.
 - Winter and Spring are considered one term for financial aid purposes. The standard Winter/Spring term is 18 weeks (Winter is 3 weeks; Spring is 15 weeks)
 - The standard Summer term is 12 weeks.
- Class dates cannot overlap terms. This means that the first and last date of a class must fall within a single term’s dates. Winter/Spring is considered one term.
- Courses taught at high school locations are exempt from these rules if they are for high school (non-aid eligible) students only.
- Classes with rare and unique circumstances may be exempt from these regulations. Some examples of UWL rare and unique* classes include study abroad, clinical, practicum, student teaching, internship and independent study. Please consult with the University Registrar and the Director of Financial Aid if you are unsure if your class qualifies as rare and unique and you need an exemption from these standard scheduling rules.

*Note: The definition of “rare and unique” is under discussion with the Federal Department of Education and is subject to change.