

Introducing the Work

A STUDENT-CENTED COURSE SCHEDULING RESOURCE

Purpose

Course scheduling is often treated as an operational task, yet it significantly shapes retention, degree completion, and institutional efficiency. At the same time, conversations about changing the schedule can trigger understandable concerns around faculty workload and autonomy.

The resources included here draw on best practices from the AASCU Student-Centered Course Scheduling initiative to help institutional leaders make the case for this work, building shared understanding and buy-in across faculty, staff, and students before change begins.

What's Included

This resource includes a customizable slide deck along with a companion email and social media content to help you introduce this work to key audiences on your campus.

- **Deck:** A presentation template to introduce the case for student-centered course scheduling to faculty, staff, and institutional leadership. Slides include data, institution spotlights, and a framework for why this work matters.
- **Email Copy:** A ready-to-customize message for deans, faculty, and staff that explains the initiative and invites their input.
- **Social Media Copy and Graphics:** Posts tailored for two audiences: colleagues on LinkedIn and students on institutional channels.

Deck

DOWNLOAD: [PowerPoint Template](#)

1. Title Slide

Building a Student-Centered Course Schedule

Strengthening student momentum, faculty planning, and institutional sustainability

2. Section Slide

Introducing the Work

3. The Course Schedule Shapes Everything

It determines what's possible for students:

- Pace, momentum, and time to degree completion
- Balance of work, caregiving, and life
- Alignment of required courses with degree pathways

It also shapes:

- Faculty workload planning
- Classroom utilization and staffing
- Academic quality and advising clarity

4. Quote

"The course schedule is the engine of degree completion." —Terry Brown, vice president for academic innovation and transformation, AASCU

5. A Core Institutional Priority

Getting the schedule right is an ongoing process, not a one-time project.

A student-centered schedule helps us:

- Reduce hidden barriers
- Improve on-time graduation rates
- Strengthen financial sustainability
- Support predictable, transparent planning for faculty and staff

6. Today's Students Need Schedules That Work

Students balancing work, school, and life need:

- Predictable, sequenced pathways
- Fewer conflicts between required courses
- Course times that reflect demand
- Access to foundational courses early and consistently

Legacy schedules often don't match these realities—leading to delays, added cost, and attrition.

7. Benefits for Students

A student-centered schedule leads to:

- Fewer conflicts
- Reduced registration anxiety and frustration
- Faster paths to graduation

- Lower overall cost
- More supportive course combinations
- Stronger momentum toward their degree

[INSERT QUOTE FROM A STUDENT]

8. Benefits for Faculty and Academic Affairs

This work strengthens the teaching environment:

- Clearer, more predictable workload planning
- More balanced section enrollments
- Fewer last-minute schedule changes
- Data to understand student demand patterns
- Greater alignment with program pathways and pedagogy

[INSERT QUOTE FROM A FACULTY MEMBER]

9. Benefits for the Institution

A strategic schedule drives institutional health:

- Stronger alignment between academic planning and course availability
- Improved retention and completion
- Better classroom utilization
- More efficient use of instructional resources
- Greater alignment with enrollment goals
- Stronger student satisfaction and advising clarity

10. Scheduling Shifts That Work

Examples from other institutions:

- Reduce conflicts between courses required in the same term
- Spread high-DFW courses across terms
- Rebalance M/W vs. T/Th offerings
- Add 1–2 critical sections in bottleneck courses
- Offer predictable rotation patterns for multi-semester sequences

Small changes → meaningful impact.

11. Results from the Field

From 2022–2024, 11 regional public universities prioritizing this work achieved:

- 12% increase in students completing first-year English and math
- 1.4 credit increase in productive credits per student annually (8.1% improvement)

Institution Spotlights:

- Texas A&M University increased students taking 15+ credits per semester by 22 percentage points
- Western Kentucky University improved their Overloaded Course Ratio by 25% in first-year courses
- Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi boosted classroom utilization by 5% and reduced primetime compression by 11%
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio increased overall primetime classroom utilization and reduced off-grid waste by 3 percentage points.

Smarter course scheduling leads to faster progress and higher completion.

12. Looking Beyond Common Assumptions

Myth	Reality
“Students take classes whenever they’re offered.”	Many students have inflexible work/caregiving schedules
“Low enrollment means lack of interest.”	Often caused by a conflict with another required course
“This work is only about efficiency.”	It’s about removing hidden barriers and improving student momentum
“Changing the schedule adds work.”	Goal is less churn, more predictability, and clearer processes

13. Why Faculty and Staff Leadership Matters

This work requires insights from across campus:

- Faculty understand course sequences, pedagogy, and workload
- Advisors see where students get stuck
- Chairs know where conflicts occur
- Registrars see patterns in demand and availability
- Students reveal barriers we can’t see in data alone

Scheduling reform succeeds only when everyone plays a part.

14. Our Opportunity Statement

[PLACEHOLDER] Current scheduling practices create conflicts and limit access to key courses, especially for working and caregiving students. A student-centered, data-informed approach will help students get the courses they need, when they need them, improving momentum and supporting timely completion.

15. What's Next

- [PLACEHOLDER] Timeline - Activity
- [PLACEHOLDER] Date - Milestone
- [PLACEHOLDER] Timeline - Activity
- [PLACEHOLDER] Timeline - Activity
- [PLACEHOLDER] Date - Milestone

16. Questions?

17. Let's Build Student-Centered Systems—Together

Contact email@email.org or visit website.edu for more information.

Email Copy

To Deans/Faculty/Staff

Subject	Coming soon: student-centered course schedules
Preview Text	Share your perspective in this campuswide improvement.
Heading	The course schedule is the engine of degree completion.
Body	<p>[INSTITUTION] is launching a student-centered course scheduling effort designed to better support student progress, faculty planning, and institutional sustainability.</p> <p>Why Now</p> <p>The course schedule shapes everything, from students' ability to stay on track to graduation to how faculty plan and pedagogy.</p>

	<p>When schedules align with student demand and program pathways, we reduce hidden barriers and support stronger momentum toward degrees.</p> <p>[Institution-specific description of opportunity]</p> <p>Your Role</p> <p>We are in the early “listening and learning” phase and want to hear from you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please review the attached overview deck for a quick introduction • Participate in upcoming opportunities to share feedback <p>Your insights will help ensure any improvements reflect real teaching needs, student realities, and departmental priorities.</p> <p>Thank you for being part of this work to build more student-centered systems—together.</p> <p>[Name]</p> <p>[Title]</p>
Attachment	<u>Deck</u>

Social Media Copy and Graphics

To Deans/Faculty/Staff from Individual LinkedIn Account

Graphic	<p>Course schedules shape everything. Share your input. Help us improve.</p> <p>DOWNLOAD: Image, Canva Template (page 1)</p>
Caption	<p>A student-centered schedule works for everyone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students get the courses they need, when they need them • Faculty get clearer workload planning and fewer last-minute changes <p>We’re beginning an effort to build more student-centered schedules here at [INSTITUTION].</p> <p>To my colleagues at [INSTITUTION], your input will make all the difference.</p> <p>Take this short survey (5 minutes): [LINK]</p>

To Students from Institution Social Accounts

Graphic	Tell us how to make course schedules work better for your life. DOWNLOAD: Image , Canva Template (page 2)
Caption	Balancing work, health, family, and school is real. [INSTITUTION] is exploring how course schedules can better support students' lives and graduation goals. If you're a student here, your input will help shape improvements. Take this short survey (5 minutes): [LINK]