We launched an initiative to embed short semesters clearly packaged back to back within the larger semesters, providing alternative start dates (stepping stones).

Not only will this structured late start model support enrollment growth, it will also serve as a well-defined alternative gateway and pathway for students whereby promoting access, success and accelerated completion. Well-defined start dates and distinct gateways will also provide clarity for marketing and messaging to students and the community about options available to support educational goals.

The approach can serve to accommodate students who miss the beginning of the semester or who are enrolled but need other courses after the semester starts. Where possible, we propose the following structured start dates for Fall 2015:

**August 18:** For 18 weeks, 8 or 9 weeks courses.  
**August 31:** For 6 weeks or shorter courses.  
**October 19:** For 6, 8 or 9 weeks, or shorter courses back to back with earlier ones.

Example of scheduling schemes:  
August 31st: Start six weeks long course plus one week to process prerequisites.  
October 19th: Start of eight week long course which ends right before exam week.

We encourage cross discipline collaborations and patterns that allow:
- To meet two different GE requirements back to back with one another.
- To provide accelerated pathways, for example, accelerated Math with two classes back to back or fast-tracking similar to that in Administration of Justice.
- To expand the schedule of classes to fill the time slots between 8 to 9AM and 12 to 2PM, and extend beyond the traditional 9 to 12 time blocks.
- To schedule back to back classes in a same classroom to maximize space usage.
Potential options that were considered for Fall 2015:

**OPTION ADOPTED:**
Option A: One 6 weeks and one 8 weeks sessions - Start on Aug 31, Oct 19 - Six weeks August 31 to October 9 and eight week October 19 to December 11
- Allows first of the two sessions to start after the first week of the semester
- Allows one week in between for prerequisites processing
- Prevents overlapping with final exams in semester long classes
- Align with current 8 weeks and 9 weeks already existing schemes, whereby adding to existing clarity and structure.

**OPTIONS REJECTED:**
Option B: Three back to back 6 weeks sessions—Start on August 18, Sept. 28, and Nov. 28
- (1) Session from August 18 to September 25. (2) Session from September 28 to November 6. (3) Session from November 9 to December 18.
- Follows the Fast-Track AJ start dates, whereby adding to existing clarity and structure.
- The third six weeks session does interfere with finals week.
- The third-six weeks session starts after the deadline units required for financial aid.
- There is no break in between to process prerequisites. We would have to plan courses that have pre-requisites to be in the first and last of the sessions or only in the second session.

Option C: One 11 weeks session—Start dates on September 28
- The session would run from September 28 to December 11th.
- The start date would be set one month after the beginning of classes
- The session would end before finals week.
- The start of the second 6 week session is the same as that of Fast Track, this would give students a structured start date. It could be changed to start a week earlier and be 12 weeks or stay as is and finish during finals week.

Option D: Two back to back 9 weeks sessions—Start dates on Aug 18 and Oct 19
- The first session would run from August 18 to October 16. The second session would run from October 19 to December 18.
- The first session would start at the same time as the full semester.
- The second session would interfere with finals week.
- There would be no breaks in between to process prerequisites