

Q2S Conversion **Frequently Asked Questions**

Will I lose credits taken in the quarter system? No. Your credits will be converted. The credits you have earned under the quarter system will count to meet your program requirements under the semester system. In some cases, courses under the quarter system are being combined together into one course under the semester system. Check the Q2S page for the program crosswalk in your program area: (http://www.centralgatech.edu/general/instructional/academic_affairs.html).

What is the difference between a quarter- and a semester-based calendar? Under both the quarter and the semester academic calendars, the academic year is approximately 40 weeks of instruction time. In the quarter system, there are four quarters with 10 weeks of instruction time (plus final exams). In the semester system there will be two semesters (fall and spring) with 15 weeks of instruction time (plus final exams), and one semester (summer) with 10 weeks or 2 mini-semesters with 5 weeks of instruction time (plus final exams).

Who will be affected by the *transition* to a semester-based academic calendar? Any student enrolled in the college when the transition takes place in fall 2011 (August 2011).

What can I do to prepare for the semester conversion? If possible, you should complete your degree, diploma or certificate prior to the conversion to the semester system; in other words, plan to finish by the end of summer 2011 (July 2011). If you cannot finish by the end of summer quarter 2011, you should focus on completing all sequences of courses prior to the start of the semester calendar. For example: ECCE 1113 Creative Activities for Young Children in the semester system is the same as ECE 1013 Art for Children and ECE 1014 Music & Movement in the quarter system. So, you should make every effort to complete the two-course sequence prior to the conversion.

If I am in the middle of a two- or three-quarter sequence of courses, how will I complete it on the semester system? Whenever possible, complete all sequences you have begun on the quarter system while you are on the quarter system. If you see that you are not going to complete a sequence on the quarter system, you may want to consider delaying beginning the sequence until the conversion to semesters is made. If you have already begun a sequence and are unable to complete it, you will contact and work with your academic advisor or department chair to determine the best sequence completion plan for you.

What tools can I use to help me understand how the conversion will affect me? The best tools are: 1) a meeting with your advisor; 2) an individualized plan for your completion or transition; and 3) the quarter to semester course conversion chart (crosswalk) (available online at <http://www.tcsgsemester411.com/slides.cfm?thisSlide=4>).

How many credits will be required for full-time status on semesters? Full-time will be 12 credit hours, as it is now.

How many credits will be required for graduation under semesters? The number of credit hours required for a degree or diploma will decrease under the semester system. Currently most associate degrees require **90 to 110** credits. Under semesters, most associate degrees will require **60 to 73** semester credits.

What are the advantages of a semester calendar for students?

Advantages of the semester calendar include:

- Provides more time for learning course material and for class projects;
- Allows employers to assign internship students jobs with more responsibility since students will be with the employer longer;
- Provides more time for students who might be having trouble in a class to make adjustments and succeed;
- Reduces registration, payment and financial aid activity from four times to three times per academic year;
- Brings our courses in line with most textbooks, which are written for use in semester-length courses;
- Brings our calendar in line with the calendar of the University System of Georgia schools and other colleges, since the majority of colleges and universities use the semester system.

How can the fall semester 2011 start in August? Summer quarter is not usually over until the middle of September? We will have an abbreviated summer 2011 quarter. It will be 5 weeks long rather than the usual 10 weeks of instruction time. Many courses will be offered on-line or in hybrid format (some meetings in class, some work on-line) so that courses will not have to meet 4 days per week.

Will it take me longer to complete my program on the semester system? In general, if you maintain full-time enrollment status throughout the year, pass your courses, and maintain contact with your academic advisor to make sure you are on track, completion time should not increase for most programs.

Will my grade point average (GPA) be affected by the conversion to the semester system? No. GPA's will still be computed by multiplying the number of credit hours for a course by quality points earned (A=4; B=3; C=2, D=1; F=0) and then dividing the total of quality points by the total of credit hours earned. Learning support courses (009- level courses) will not figure into your CTC cumulative GPA. However, just as they are now, they will be figured into your HOPE scholarship eligibility.

How will the conversion affect my student VISA? In a semester system summer term is used as the vacation term for immigration purposes. An F-1 or M-1 international student visa holder is considered to be in status during the annual (summer) vacation if the student is eligible and intends to register for the next term according to immigration regulations. Check with CTC's International Center for more information regarding annual vacation term.

What will the semester class schedule look like? How many days per week will my classes meet?

What will be the length of the classes each time they meet? Generally speaking, courses will meet for a shorter duration each week, but will meet for a longer period of time (15 week semester vs. 10 week quarter). Under the semester system, you will continue to find online, hybrid and traditional courses. CTC will continue to offer day, evening, and weekend classes. You can be assured that CTC will continue to offer a variety of formats and schedules to meet their needs of juggling a course load, work, family, and other obligations.

Will semesters change my financial aid? Financial aid will be available under the semester system! Financial aid will be divided to account for longer academic terms. Just as you do now you will re-apply for financial aid on a yearly basis.