

## WINTER INTERSESSION SURVEY 2010 – Proposed Questions/Survey Format

### *STUDENT SURVEY*

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In 2004-05, El Camino College began offering a 5-week Winter Intersession by shifting spring to a start date in February. This Winter session allows students to add one or two courses to their annual course load leading to faster progress towards educational goals. It also provides opportunities to reduce course loads in spring or repeat courses from fall that resulted in insufficient grades. International and nursing students especially benefit from additional class time.

However, a winter intersession has some negative impacts on students. For example, deadlines for graduation applications fall early in the spring semester, often catching students off-guard. And grade appeals for fall classes can be delayed since many faculty are not available in winter. Finally, spring semester ends in June rather than May, limiting summer enrollment opportunities.

El Camino College is exploring the possibility of returning to a more common 3-term academic year (Summer, Fall, Spring). Such a change would involve the elimination of the winter intersession in favor of shifting the spring semester to mid-January and ending in early May. This would then allow the college to offer two, six-week, back-to-back summer sessions along with an eight-week summer session.

We'd like to know what you think about such a change. This anonymous 6-question survey will take only a few minutes of your time. Thank you.

1. Where do you take most of your classes at El Camino College?
  - a. ECC Torrance Campus
  - b. Compton Center
  - c. Both locations equally
  
2. Did you enroll in Winter Session 2010 at El Camino College Torrance campus/Compton Center?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No, I was interested but did not enroll.
  - c. No, was not interested in Winter classes at ECC
  - d. Started but then withdrew

### *“Yes” BRANCH*

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- 3a. Please list the reasons why you enrolled in winter.
  - a. To make faster progress towards my educational goals
  - b. So I could take fewer units in fall/spring
  - c. To fill the gap between fall and spring
  - d. To repeat a course I failed in a previous term
  - e. Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )

*“Was Interested But Did Not Enroll” BRANCH*

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3b. If you were not able to enroll, what was the main reason?

- a. The classes I wanted were full
- b. The classes I wanted were not offered
- c. Classes conflicted with work/family obligations
- d. Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )

*“No” BRANCH (responses ‘b’ or ‘c’ to question ...)*

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3c. If you did not enroll in winter classes, what was the primary activity that you did instead?

- a. Enrolled in Winter session at another college
- b. Worked (or took on more hours at work)
- c. Traveled
- d. Fulfilled family obligations
- e. Had more free time
- f. Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

*ALL STUDENTS*

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4. What is your preferred schedule for Winter/Spring sessions?

- a. Keep Winter and Spring just the way they are
- b. Eliminate Winter so that Spring starts in mid-January and ends in early May
- c. Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )

5. If Winter were eliminated in favor of an early-starting Spring session, one additional option may be to offer two, back-to-back, six-week summer sessions (as opposed to the current overlapping summer sessions).

How much more favorable is this summer schedule compared with the current summer schedule?

- a. Much more favorable
- b. Slightly more favorable
- c. Neutral/No opinion
- d. Slightly *less* favorable
- e. Much *less* favorable

6. If two, back-to-back, six-week summer sessions were available, in which would you likely take classes?

- a. First Session (May-June)
- b. Second Session (late June - early Aug)
- c. Both
- d. Neither
- e. Not sure

## *EMPLOYEE SURVEY*

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In 2004-05, El Camino College began offering a 5-week Winter Intersession by shifting spring to a start date in February. This Winter session allows students to add one or two courses to their annual course load leading to faster progress towards educational goals. It also provides opportunities to reduce course loads in spring or repeat courses from fall that resulted in insufficient grades. International and nursing students especially benefit from additional class time.

However, a winter intersession has some negative impacts on students. For example, deadlines for graduation applications fall early in the spring semester, often catching students off-guard. And grade appeals for fall can be delayed since many faculty are not available in winter. Finally, spring semester ends in June rather than May, limiting summer enrollment opportunities.

The winter intersession also has some administrative impacts for faculty and staff. Some offices experience a lighter “catch-up” period, while others experience increased workload. The brief intersession period also makes pre-requisite checking and fee payment deadlines difficult to manage and leaves little down-time for classroom repairs.

El Camino College is exploring the possibility of returning to a more common 3-term academic year (Summer, Fall, Spring). Such a change would involve the elimination of the winter intersession in favor of shifting the spring semester to mid-January and ending in early May. This would then allow the college to offer two, six-week, back-to-back summer sessions along with an eight-week summer session.

We’d like to know what you think about such a change. This anonymous survey will take only a few minutes of your time. Thank you.

1. Please describe your main role at El Camino College (Torrance campus or Compton Center)?
  - a. Classified Staff
  - b. Administrator, manager or supervisor
  - c. Faculty
  - d. Other

### *“Faculty” BRANCH*

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2. Have you ever taught in the Winter Intersession?
  - a. Yes, and I taught in Winter 2010
  - b. Yes, but not this year.
  - c. No.

**ALL EMPLOYEES**

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3. What is your preferred schedule for Winter/Spring sessions?
- a. Keep Winter and Spring just the way they are
  - b. Eliminate Winter so that Spring starts in mid-January and ends in early May
  - c. Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_ )

4. If Winter were eliminated in favor of an early-starting Spring session, one additional option may be to offer two, back-to-back, six-week summer sessions (as opposed to overlapping summer sessions).

How much more favorable is this schedule compared with the current schedule?

- a. Much more favorable
- b. Slightly more favorable
- c. Neutral/No opinion
- d. Slightly *less* favorable
- e. Much *less* favorable

5. What is your schedule typically like in Winter?
- a. Busier
  - b. Less busy - Provides an opportunity to catch-up on backlogs
  - c. No different from other times of the year.
  - d. Not sure.

6. How do you think the current schedule with a winter intersession **benefits** students? (leave blank if no benefit)

Open-ended response.
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7. How do you think the current schedule **negatively affects** students? (leave blank if no negative effect)

Open-ended response.
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8. If the academic calendar were changed by removing winter and moving up spring (with two back-to-back, 6-week summer sessions offered), how do you think this change of schedule would affect students?

Open-ended response.

9. *Compared to a longer summer* (with two back-to-back 6-week summer sessions), to what degree does a winter intersession disrupt collegial and other College processes with its absence of many faculty/staff and some campus committee meetings?

- a. Winter intersession more disruptive
- b. Longer summer session more disruptive
- c. Either option about equally disruptive
- d. Not sure or Not applicable

10. If the academic calendar were changed by removing winter, moving up spring and creating the back-to-back summer sessions, what are the estimated financial and other affects on your unit or program? (check all that apply)

- a. My unit or program would cost more to run
- b. My unit or program would require more staffing overall
- c. Services would need to be expanded since summer is busier than winter
- d. Other (please detail the effects in the comment box at the end of this survey)
- e. No effects expected
- f. Not sure or Not applicable

11. What is your primary work location?

- a. ECC Torrance Campus
- b. Compton Center
- c. Both locations equally
- d. Other location

12. What is your Division or Unit?

- a. Admissions & Records
- b. Behavioral & Social Sciences
- c. Business
- d. Counseling or Student Support Services
- e. Enrollment Services
- f. Fine Arts
- g. Health Sciences & Athletics
- h. Humanities
- i. Industry & Technology

- j. Learning Resources
- k. Mathematical Sciences
- l. Natural Sciences
- m. Other

13. Additional comments about winter intersession or the possible change in schedule:

Open-ended response.

**C2. Division or Unit (If applicable)**

Admissions & Records

Behavioral & Social Sciences

Business

Counseling

Enrollment Services

Fine Arts

Health Sciences & Athletics

Humanities

Industry & Technology

Learning Resources

Mathematical Sciences

Natural Sciences

Other