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### GWU to Offer New, Shorter Semester Option

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# GWU to Offer New, Shorter Semester Option

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Office of University  
Communications

September 19, 2014

## *Gardner-Webb Degree Completion Program to Launch Eight-Week Course Schedule in October*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. — Some students decide they'd like to enroll in a course after an academic semester has started and realize it's too late. A new option from Gardner-Webb University's Degree Completion Program (DCP) will allow students to begin select courses in the middle of a traditional term.

In October, the DCP will launch its first Minimester, an eight-week term that provides the same coursework as a full 16-week period, said Dr. Bobbie Cox, GWU Associate Provost for Adult and Distance Education. The University already plans to offer another Minimester in spring 2015. "In the past, we had three different times students could enter Gardner-Webb for degree completion," Cox offered. "Now, we have five starting periods with these two new semesters that are designed to help students start their education without having to wait until the next full semester."

The DCP will offer 17 courses, mostly core and pre-requisite classes, during the first shortened term, which begins Oct. 13. "The course content is the same as during a regular semester," Cox shared. "The Minimester courses will all be delivered totally online. There are no seated classes. Students will have the same assignments, quizzes, and projects they would have during a regular term."

Gardner-Webb offers 11 majors through the DCP, which serves students who previously completed a two-year degree or its equivalent. To complete additional requirements toward their degree in a shorter period of time, DCP students can now add courses mid-term to the schedule they started at the beginning of a traditional semester, Cox said. Students can also drop a course at the beginning of a semester and retake it during the compact term.

"We believe the Minimester is already successful," Cox asserted. "We have brought in a number of students who otherwise wouldn't be able to begin until January."

Students may register for the upcoming fall Minimester through Oct. 15. For more information, call 704-406-4484 or visit [gardner-webb.edu/dcp](http://gardner-webb.edu/dcp).

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for professional success and for productive citizenship.*