

be
Great
in



ISOTHERMAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Isothermal Community College offers most courses in an 8-week format. The fall and spring semesters include an 8-week Term 1 and an 8-week Term 2. Additionally, most summer courses will be offered during an 8-week term, although there may be some slightly longer 10-week courses.

We offer courses in an 8-week format because our data shows that this format provides several benefits to students that lead to better success in individual classes and with program completion. Major differences between 16-week and 8-week courses include:

16 *VS.* **8**
WEEK WEEK

- 12-18 credit hours per semester (on average)
 - Complete 4-5 courses at a time
 - Focus on 4-5 sets of assignments
 - Communicate with 4-5 instructors at a time
- 6-9 credit hours per 8-week term (on average)
 - Complete 2-3 courses at a time
 - Focus on 2-3 sets of assignments
 - Communicate with 2-3 instructors at a time

Frequently Asked Questions???

Are all courses offered in 8-week terms?

Most courses are offered in 8-week terms, but some programs and courses are in a 16-week format due to high contact hours.

Why does Isothermal offer 8-week terms?

Research demonstrates that 8-week terms improve student learning. Taking fewer classes at a time allows you to focus more intensely on the course material, making you more likely to remember the material longer.

What is the delivery format of 8-week classes?

Eight-week classes are offered in all delivery formats: in-person, in-person combined with online, and completely online.

Do 8-week terms mean I can finish my degree faster?

Eight-week terms may make it possible to complete a degree faster, particularly if you intend to enroll part-time. However, to get the most benefit from the compressed timeframe, you should take approximately half the number of credits each 8-week term that you would have taken in a semester.

Chat
with **Pat**



Our chatbot is available 24/7 at isothermal.edu to answer your questions about Isothermal.

Are 8-week classes harder?

It may seem that way at first because you will be completing the same course more quickly than you may be used to. However, it is important to remember you should only be taking half the number of credits at any given time, so your overall workload per term will be comparable to a semester.

What is considered full-time for financial aid?

Traditionally, enrolling in 12 or more credits had been considered full-time for financial aid purposes. As of 2024-2025, federal aid is calculated according to the number of credits enrolled rather than a full-time or part-time status.

How many courses do I have to take to complete an associate degree in two years?

If you average two 3-credit courses per 8-week term, you will need to take a couple of courses in the summer to complete a degree in two years. Alternatively, you could take one additional course in two of your 8-week terms. Be sure to talk to your College Navigator and Faculty Mentor about the best approach to building your course schedule to reach your goals.

What if I am taking science courses that have labs?

You might have a class with higher “contact hours” per week than the listed credit hours because of a lab component. The number of contact hours tells you how much time you can expect to spend either in the classroom/lab or working online in addition to reading and homework. If you are taking one of these courses, talk to your College Navigator and Faculty Mentor about whether it would be best for you to take only that course in one 8-week term. If you take a second course, select it carefully, keeping your total number of contact hours in mind.

How does the registration process work?

You will always meet with your College Navigator or Faculty Mentor to plan a 16-week semester. However, you will break down your classes into two sets: one set for Term 1 and one set for Term 2.

If I drop a course in the first 8 weeks, can I take it in the second 8 weeks?

Yes, if it is offered, which is another advantage of 8-week terms. Isothermal plans class schedules a year at a time, so when you register for the fall semester, you will be able to see what will be offered in the spring semester too. Please contact the Financial Aid Office to ask how adjusting your schedule will impact your aid.

How is my financial aid affected?

You will register for all courses (8-week and 16-week) at the start of the semester. To secure your courses, be sure your financial aid is complete.

If you are a new or returning student after the full-term census and you register for Term 2 courses, you may still qualify for financial aid by filing your FAFSA. Come by Student Services for one-on-one assistance. We are glad to help you secure your financial aid!

The full-term census is the 10% point of the semester. These dates can be found on the Academic Calendar at events.isothermal.edu.

When do I pay tuition and fees?

Charges are placed on your account when you register for your course(s). Payment for tuition and fees is due at the end of each registration period. Aid that is available on your account will apply to those charges.

When will I get my refund?

Any remaining financial aid funds are disbursed after the census dates for Term 1 and Term 2. Important details and scenarios are included in the What Your Financial Aid Check Disbursement Might Look Like section on pages 11 and 12.

Be sure to log into your Patriot Port account for direct deposit information. Pell disbursement dates can be found on the Academic Calendar at events.isothermal.edu.

**Chat
with Pat**



Our chatbot is available 24/7 at isothermal.edu to answer your questions about Isothermal.

Jason is earning an Associate in Arts Degree. Their schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3 credits
CIS 110	Introduction to Computers	3 credits
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
		7 total credit hours

Term 2

ENG 112	Writing/Research in the Disc	3 credits
MAT 152	Statistical Methods I	4 credits
		7 total credit hours

Total 14 credit hours in semester

If Jason wants to complete in two years, they should take at least one additional course per year. They could take courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AA degree: 60-61



Juanita is earning an Associate in Science Degree. Her schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3 credits
MAT 171	Precalculus Algebra	4 credits
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
		8 total credit hours

Term 2

ENG 112	Writing/Research in the Disc	3 credits
MAT 172	Precalculus Trigonometry	4 credit hours
		7 total credit hours

Total 15 credit hours in semester

If Juanita wants to complete in two years, she should take one additional course per year. She could take the courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AS degree: 60-61



Tyler is working on his Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice Technology. His schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3 credit hours
CJC 111	Intro to Criminal Justice	3 credit hours
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
		7 total credit hours

Term 2

CJC 132	Court Procedures and Evidence	3 credit hours
CJC 141	Corrections	3 credit hours
		6 total credit hours

Total 13 credit hours in semester

If Tyler wants to complete in two years, he should take at least one additional course per year. He could take courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AAS in Criminal Justice Degree: 70



Madison is working on her Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education: Career Track. Her schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3 credit hours
EDU 119	Intro to Early Childhood	4 credit hours
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
		8 total credit hours

Term 2

EDU 131	Child, Family and Community	3 credit hours
EDU 146	Child Guidance	3 credit hours
		6 total credit hours

Total 14 credit hours in semester

If Madison wants to complete in two years, she should take at least one additional course per year. She could take courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AAS in Early Childhood Degree: 65



Austin is working on his Associate in Applied Sciences in Welding Technology. His schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
WLD 110	Cutting Processes	2 credit hours
WLD 115	SMAW (stick) Plate	5 credit hours
		8 total credit hours

Term 2

WLD 116	SMAW (stick) Plate/Pipe	4 credit hours
WOL 110	Basic Construction Skills	3 credit hours
		7 total credit hours

Total 15 credit hours in semester

If Austin wants to complete in two years, he should take at least one additional course per year. He could take courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AAS in Welding Technology Degree: 70



Sebastian is working on his Associate in Applied Science in Information Technology Cybersecurity Degree. His schedule could look like the following:

Term 1

ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3 credit hours
SEC 110	Security Concepts	3 credit hours
ACA 122	College Transfer Success	1 credit
		7 total credit hours

Term 2

CIS 115	Intro to Prog & Logic	3 credit hours
CTI 120	Network & Sec Foundation	3 credit hours
		6 total credit hours

Total 13 credit hours in semester

If Sebastian wants to complete in two years, he should take at least one additional course per year. He could take courses in the summer.

Program Total Required for Graduation with AAS in Cybersecurity Specialty: 67



What Your Financial Aid Check Disbursement Might Look Like

Are you planning your finances for the semester? Let's plan together. Here are a few financial aid scenarios. To see *your* award amount, please log into your Patriot Port account or visit the Financial Aid Office in the Student Center Building.

To view the price of books/required materials, visit the College Bookstore in the Student Center Building or online at <https://bookstore.isothermal.edu>. Remember, the bookstore will allow you to charge purchases against your financial aid award for Term 1 and Term 2 during specified dates. Check the bookstore's webpage for those dates.

Financial aid is calculated at the census date of the course; therefore, there are multiple check disbursements throughout the semester. Please see the College's calendar for those dates. Check your Patriot Port account for direct deposit information.

Scenario 1:

- Enrolled in 12 credits over 2 terms
- All books/required materials are purchased at the beginning of the semester
- This student's aid for the semester: \$3448
(this amount will vary by student)

	Term 1 (6 Credits)	Term 2 (6 Credits)
Aid Awarded for Semester	\$1,724	\$1,724
Tuition/Fees for 12 Credits	-\$1,015	\$ -
Books/Required Materials	-\$600	\$ -
Estimated Refund	\$109	\$1,724

These are scenarios.

To see *your* award amount, please log into your Patriot Port account or visit the Financial Aid Office in the Student Center Building.

Scenario 2:

- Enrolled in 12 credits over 2 terms
- Books/required materials are purchased at the beginning of each term
- This student's aid for the semester: \$2950
(this amount will vary by student)

	Term 1 (6 Credits)	Term 2 (6 Credits)
Aid for Semester	\$1,475	\$1,475
Tuition/Fees for 12 Credits	-\$1,015	\$ -
Books/Required Materials	-\$300	-\$300
Estimated Refund	\$160	\$1,175

Scenario 3:

- Enrolled in 6 credits after the semester census date for Term 2 only
- Books/required materials are purchased at the beginning of Term 2
- The student's aid for the semester: \$1724
(this amount will vary by student)

	Term 1 (0 Credits)	Term 2 (6 Credits)
Aid for Semester	\$ -	\$1,724
Tuition/Fees for 6 Credits	\$ -	-\$554
Books/Required Materials	\$ -	-\$350
Estimated Refund	\$ -	\$820

FINANCIAL AID, Student Center, Room 7
financialaid@isothermal.edu or 828-395-4198

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND COLLEGE RESOURCES

YOU BELONG AT ISOTHERMAL

Isothermal Community College is proud to provide an inclusive campus climate that fosters a sense of belonging by providing equitable access to a rich academic experience and a robust support system that promotes the opportunity for successful outcomes for all, including those who feel marginalized or otherwise excluded.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Campus Computer Labs
- College Bookstore
- Library Services
- Office of Accessibility
- Tutoring Services

COLLEGE RESOURCES

- Career Services
- ICC Help Desk for Technology Assistance
- Patriot Pantry for Free Food and Personal Items
- Personal Counseling and Resources
- Student Life, Clubs, and Extracurricular Activities
- Veterans Affairs Educational Benefits

Chat
with **Pat**



Our chatbot is available 24/7 at isothermal.edu to answer your questions about Isothermal.



Check out Career Coach!

Career Coach allows you to discover majors, in-demand careers, and education based on your interests. Using this FREE tool, you can:

- ▶ Take a career assessment to learn about yourself, and Career Coach will give you career suggestions based on your interests.
- ▶ Browse or search for careers and explore relevant data on wages, employment, and the training you need.
- ▶ Browse or search for programs at Isothermal that lead to the career you want.
- ▶ Build a professional resume.



2024-2025 Academic Calendar

FALL 2024

	Full Semester Courses (16 weeks)	Term 1 (1st 8 weeks)	Term 2 (2nd 8 weeks)
Start Date	08/22/24	08/22/24	10/22/24
Census	09/3/2024	08/27/2024	10/25/2024
Last Day to Withdraw	12/11/2024	10/9/2024	12/11/2024
End Date	12/18/2024	10/16/2024	12/18/2024

SPRING 2025

	Full Semester Courses (16 weeks)	Term 1 (1st 8 weeks)	Term 2 (2nd 8 weeks)
Start Date	01/14/2025	01/14/2025	03/13/2025
Census	01/27/2025	01/21/2025	03/18/2025
Last Day to Withdraw	05/7/2025	02/28/2025	05/7/2025
End Date	05/13/2025	03/7/2025	05/13/2025

SUMMER 2025

	Full Semester Courses (10 weeks)	Term 1 (8 weeks)	Term 3 (1st 4 weeks)	Term 4 (2nd 4 weeks)
Start Date	05/27/2025	06/3/2025	05/27/2025	07/1/2025
Census	06/2/2025	06/5/2025	05/28/2025	07/2/2025
Last Day to Withdraw	07/23/2025	07/23/2025	06/18/2025	07/23/2025
End Date	07/30/2025	07/30/2025	06/26/2025	07/30/2025

Please refer to the college calendar at events.isothermal.edu for the most current version of academic-related postings.

NOTES



Advising and Success Center

Student Center, Room 32
advising@isothermal.edu
828-395-1436

Career and College Promise

Student Center, Room 31E
ccp@isothermal.edu
828-395-4324

Financial Aid

Student Center, Room 7
financialaid@isothermal.edu
828-395-4198

College Navigator for Arts and Sciences

Michael Clough

Student Center, Room 32E
mclough@isothermal.edu
828-395-1464

College Navigator for Applied Technologies

Marin Clontz

Student Center, Room 32D
mclontz@isothermal.edu
828-395-1755

College Navigator for Health and Public Services

Melissa Tenpenny

Student Center, Room 32A
mtenpenny@isothermal.edu
828-395-1606