Block Scheduling and Starting Blocks: What Part-Time Faculty Should Know

For the fall 2025 semester, Kennesaw State University is implementing a **block scheduling** approach. This approach is known as **[Starting Blocks](#)** for incoming first-year students. This program is designed to help students build strong academic habits, graduate on time, and form meaningful connections with peers. For part-time faculty, understanding how these blocks work can help you better support student success from day one.

Why Block Scheduling?

Research consistently shows that students who take **15 credit hours per semester** are more likely to graduate on time and achieve stronger academic results than those taking only 12 hours. This is even while balancing part-time jobs.

By enrolling students in blocks of courses, KSU increases the likelihood that they'll hit the 15-hour benchmark. This structure also enhances **first-year retention rates** and ensures that key courses, such as **English and math,** are completed early, which is linked to higher persistence toward degree completion.

How Starting Blocks Work

Instead of registering for individual classes, students choose from **two main block types**:

- **Major Blocks** — Courses aligned with a student's chosen program that are also applicable to multiple majors, reducing the risk of lost credits if they change paths.
- **English/Math Blocks** — Foundational classes prioritized for the first year to strengthen academic readiness.

This means students begin their studies with a coordinated schedule and a **built-in learning community**. For those in the **Journey Honors College**, tailored Starting Block options are available. Even students with AP, dual enrollment, or other prior credit can benefit from participating.

Benefits Beyond the Classroom

Starting Blocks foster academic and social success by:

- **Building community** — Students take multiple courses with the same peers, forming friendships and study groups.
- **Simplifying registration** — Students select just two blocks instead of piecing together a full schedule, reducing scheduling conflicts.
- **Encouraging resource use** — Faculty are encouraged to connect block students with tutoring, advising, and student support services.

For students, these consistent peer connections and early exposure to campus resources create a smoother transition into college life.

Tools and Support for Faculty

A **faculty dashboard** is now available to help instructors identify students enrolled in block schedules, allowing them to better understand their class dynamics and engage with students more intentionally. KSU has also appointed full-time faculty as **Faculty Block Champions** who share information and assist colleagues in supporting block-scheduled students. For more information about your Black Champion, please contact your department director.

What Part-Time Faculty Can Do

- **Acknowledge block scheduling in your classes** and encourage students to connect.
- **Promote resource use** — Refer students to advising, tutoring, and student support early in the semester.
- **Leverage the dashboard** to learn which of your students are in blocks.
- **Stay connected** — Attend upcoming council meetings where block scheduling updates will be presented and questions can be addressed.

By understanding and supporting the Starting Blocks program, part-time faculty play a vital role in helping students get off to a quick start. This also allows them to stay on track toward a timely and successful graduation semester. Read more on the website HERE.