

# Scheduling Guidelines for General Assignment Classrooms

## - Effective Winter 2025 -

### A. Definitions:

**Prime Time:** Classes starting 9:00 AM to 2:59 PM

**Non-Prime Time:** Classes starting 7:00 to 8:59 AM and 3:00 PM and later

**Standard Meeting Pattern:** Standard meeting patterns are individually defined and listed on the Standard Meeting Patterns document.

**Non-Standard Meeting Pattern:** Any meeting pattern not defined and listed on the Standard Meeting Patterns document.

**Primary Activity:** The credit-bearing section(s) of a course. All courses have one primary activity.

**Secondary Activity:** The non-credit-bearing section(s) of a course. A course may have many, one, or no secondary activities.

### B. Prime / Non-Prime Time Distribution:

Due to excess demand for Prime Time meeting patterns, departments may request no more than 50% of their primary activity sections and no more than 60% of their secondary activity sections during Prime Time hours. A section is in Prime Time if a) the start time of the section falls within Prime Time hours and b) the section is not included in Scaffolding/Priority 1 scheduling by the Course Scheduling Committee (CSC).

Sections scheduled across multiple meeting patterns will be determined to be in or out of Prime Time hours based on their primary meeting pattern as defined in course scheduling procedures published by the Office of the Registrar. Standard meeting pattern B5 is not in Prime Time. Standard meeting pattern D5 is in Prime Time. Exceptions to this provision can be found in section D.4.

Departments that are not in compliance with this distribution requirement at the “Call” Deadline as monitored by the Office of the Registrar shall not have their sections scheduled until a schedule that meets these conditions is submitted by the department and verified by the Office of the Registrar. Notification of a department’s compliance status will be provided by the Office of the Registrar at the time of the “Call” Deadline.

### C. Meeting Pattern Requirements:

All offered sections should conform to the meeting patterns defined and listed on the Standard Meeting Patterns document unless granted an exception by the CSC. Sections requesting a non-standard meeting pattern for which an exception has not been granted by the CSC will be scheduled after all other primary activity sections if appropriate classroom availability exists. No section should employ a meeting pattern that spans multiple blocks (A-F). For additional details, please see the Meeting Pattern Matrix. To promote higher classroom utilization, secondary activity sections should generally begin on the hour.

### D. Scheduling Priority Order:

1. **Scaffolding Courses:** These courses serve multiple majors and have large enrollments with high percentages of first-year students. They are identified by the CSC and Provost and scheduled with standard meeting patterns for both primary and secondary activity sections. The main goal of this scheduling step is to avoid conflicts among these courses and thus promote on-time graduation. Sections in this category are not counted in a department’s Prime / Non-Prime Time distribution due to the university service nature of these courses and because departments have relatively less control over when these courses are scheduled. Departments may not “swap” other courses with their scaffolding courses because this can introduce courses that do not meet the scaffolding criteria and create scheduling conflicts.

Departments with scaffolding courses should reach out to the CSC prior to the “CALL” for the impacted quarter if any substantial changes are expected to any identified course. Any adjustments for increased enrollment or other needs after scheduling begins will be evaluated within the standard room change request process.

2. **Pre-Scheduling:** These sections have been approved by the CSC and Provost based on pre-assignment categories outlined in the *Scaffolding and Pre-Assignment Guideline*. Sections in this category are counted in a department's Prime / Non-Prime Time distribution. In order to guarantee scheduling under these agreements, course sections must be entered into the term no later than the Call Deadline. Sections entered after that time will be scheduled based upon current classroom availability.

3. **Standard Primary Activities:** All primary activity sections that request a standard meeting pattern and are not identified as a Priority 1 or 2 course by the CSC and Provost. Sections in this category are counted in a department's Prime / Non-Prime Time distribution. Most primary activity sections will be in this category.

4. **Non-Standard Primary Activities:** These primary activity sections request a non-standard meeting pattern for which an exception was not granted by the CSC and Provost. Sections in this category are counted in a department's Prime / Non-Prime Time distribution and are considered to be in Prime Time if any of the section's meeting times begins during Prime Time hours.

5. **Secondary Activities:** Sections in this category are counted in a department's Prime / Non-Prime Time distribution unless the course has been identified by the CSC and Provost as a Scaffolding Course.

#### E. Sections Assigned a Classroom in Department Hold Status:

A section in department hold (“H”) status may retain an assigned classroom until 2 weeks prior to the first day of instruction. If a section has not been placed into active status by that time, the classroom will be unassigned. Should the department wish to open this section in the future and utilize a general assignment classroom, they must first check classroom availability with the Office of the Registrar.

#### F. Scheduling Priority for Conflicting Requests:

Course sections will be scheduled in the priority order listed above. Where demand for a particular meeting pattern or classroom exceeds the availability for that meeting pattern or classroom among primary activity sections, scheduling priority will be further determined by ranking courses based on enrollment for the most recent like term regardless of delivery mode over the past three years; if not available, then the most recent unlike term regardless of delivery mode. For course sections scheduled by the Scheduler25 Optimizer, priority is given to maximizing placed sections according to classroom utilization.

#### G. Requests for Meeting Patterns:

The assignment of teaching duties is completed by the Chair of the department. The request for each course section's meeting pattern is completed by the department scheduling contact in consultation with the academic department. These requests cannot be guaranteed and are subject to the scheduling policies outlined in this document. Instructor requests will be considered, but are not guaranteed unless the instructor has a documented disability that requires accommodation.

#### H. Scheduling Changes:

Departments may request changes to the meeting pattern, maximum enrollment, or classroom of a course section after it has been scheduled. Prior to making such a request, departments should first work within their college structure to ensure that the change does not create additional curriculum conflicts or negatively impact student's time-to-graduation. The Office of the Registrar will maintain a log of such requests and process them in the order received, fulfilling them based on classroom availability and seat utilization.

#### I. Reassignment of Classrooms:

Classrooms may be reassigned due to utilization concerns associated with actual enrollment either not meeting or exceeding the expected enrollment, including courses with waitlists where the only constraint for increasing enrollment is the capacity of the assigned classroom. Prior to the first day of instruction, the Office of the Registrar will provide courtesy notification to departments informing them of the reassignment. Changes on or after the first day of instruction will be discussed with the impacted department(s) prior to a change being made.