

# Financial aid may help you enroll this summer

Summer time is an easy, kicked back time of year for a lot of students but you probably won't find Math Major Britnee Horne lounging at the beach. She's more likely to be in a classroom. The Fayetteville State University Sophomore went to summer school last year and plans to do the same this summer.

"Right now I am ahead where I am possibly going to graduate early if I continue to keep going to one session of summer school," says Horne.

The Durham native received a scholarship as well as financial aid to attend summer school. She says the process is easier than many students think.

"Came to the financial aid office and asked for an application, filled it out and turned it in the same day and I was told I could come in for summer school."

The university's Financial Aid Director, Kamesia Ewing, says aid is typically for the academic year, but if students don't use all their eligibility during the academic year, there is cushion left for summer school.

"The first step in determining financial aid eligibility is to complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), have eligibility, and the required enrollment hours to receive federal assistance. The required enrollment hours mean half-time status, a minimum of six hours for undergraduates and three credit hours for graduate students. Students can check with the Financial Aid office to determine whether they have eligibility. If they don't, "they would have to pay cash. Ordinarily, the Office of Student Accounts would ask for 50 percent up front and the balance paid by a certain date," says Ewing. She also says the Summer School Financial Aid Application will be available by March 1st. "We want applications back in by May 1st. We want to ensure before they leave for the semester they have their summer school financial aid award letter."

Horne says summer school is the right path because it allows her to stay ahead.

"I do want to get into the work field but I also want to get my Master's and do as much as I can to provide for myself and my family."

The sophomore says she won't let anything, including money, get in the way of achieving her academic goals. She encourages her classmates to approach school the same way.

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FSU Student Britnee Horne

# National studies show summer school students finish degrees faster

Dr. Jon Young earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees thanks to hard work and intellect. But Fayetteville State University's Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs also had a little help from summer school. "I used summer school as a way to stay on track." Dr. Young says if it worked for him it can work for today's FSU student too.

"National studies show that students who go to summer school tend to finish their degrees at a higher rate than students who don't".

Fayetteville State University is trying to create an entirely new way of thinking about academic rigor. "We really want to build a culture where most of our students understand they should attend at least one summer session," says Young. There is no better time than now. "With the anticipated state budget cuts for next year, there may be fewer class offerings. Summer school provides an opportunity for students to get a course they may not be able to get during the regular year."

The Provost says summer also provides a great learning environment. "We try to keep all classes to an enrollment limit of 20, but some classes will have as few as 12 students. It's a good learning experience with lots of focus." Not to mention, summer sessions are a great chance to interact with students who normally attend other schools during the fall and spring semesters.

It's a great time for students who may be distracted during the academic year. "Sometimes students have so many things going on that interfere with concentrating on school. In just one month of intense work, students can get caught up and even get ahead," says Dr. Young.

The bottom line is, summer courses are less expensive than those offered during the fall and spring semesters, classes students need are more likely to be available, and it's a great way to move closer to completing your degree. Just ask the Provost. "With summer school I finished my course work in three years for my PhD...I'm glad I did it."

*'In just one month of intense work, students can get caught up and even get ahead'*

FSU Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Jon Young

## SUMMER SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Intersession** (12 days) May 16-June 1, *Closed May 30-Memorial Day*

**Summer Session I** (four weeks) June 2 - June 29

**Eight Week Session** June 6 - August 5, *Closed July 4-8*

**Summer Session II** (four weeks) July 11 - August 5

Pre-register for all sessions: April 11 - April 30  
Registration begins May 9