

# FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME

## What's right for you?

### **FULL-TIME STUDENT**

You are a full-time student if you are taking at least 12 credit hours per semester in both the fall and spring semesters.

Going full-time is usually the only way possible to earn an associate degree in two years (unless you have earned college credit previously). Consider these sample schedules:

#### **STUDENT 1**

*Fall = 15 credits*

*Spring = 15 credits*

*Total credits per year = 30*

*In 2 years = 60 credits*

#### **STUDENT 2**

*Fall = 12 credits*

*Spring = 12 credits*

*Summer = 6 credits*

*Total credits per year = 30*

*In 2 years = 60 credits*

Important to know: since summer classes move at a faster pace than fall and spring classes, summer course loads should be lighter.

### **PART-TIME STUDENT**

You are a part-time student if you are taking between 3 and 11 credit hours per semester in the fall and spring semesters.

#### **WHY PART-TIME MAY WORK FOR YOU:**

- ▶ Easier to balance full-time work or family responsibilities
- ▶ Easier to make the transition back to school after an extended absence
- ▶ Students can blend on-campus learning with online classes (distance learning) to create a more flexible schedule.

#### **GOOD TO KNOW:**

- ▶ Statistically, students who go full time are more likely to graduate. The longer you are in school, the more opportunities there are for life circumstances to change or obstacles to arise.
- ▶ Part-time students who only take six credit hours a semester will need more than five years to graduate. For some, that may be a long time to wait to pursue the job of their dreams.
- ▶ Full-time students receive more financial aid. Many types of aid require students to be enrolled in a minimum number of credit hours. So, for most students, putting more time into school now for the short-term (and less time in a paying job) may make greater financial sense. Check with an MxCC financial advisor.
- ▶ Part-time status might affect insurance eligibility, veteran's benefits, scholarship eligibility or other benefits.
- ▶ Some MxCC programs have specific course sequencing, or are only available at limited times. This can be challenging for part-time schedules. Check with your academic advisor to stay on the correct sequence.

**IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO DO IT, TAKE**

**5!**

It costs the same as taking 4 classes and you will finish your degree sooner.