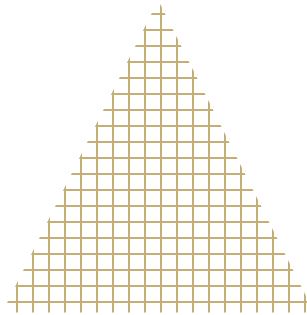


Thriving in the 4x4 Learning and Teaching Model: A Case Study of Lynn University



Dr. Good, RT: Dean of the College of Business and Management

Dr. Rao, Harika: Assistant Dean of the College of Business and Management (Fall 2022)

Dr. Scott, Kendrick: Academic Chair, Graduate Programs

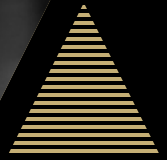
Dr. Spohn, David: Academic Chair, Undergraduate Programs (Fall 2022)



“Everyone has a plan
until they get punched
in the mouth.

- MIKE TYSON





Overview

- What is the 4x4 Block Schedule?
- What does it look like (Pandemic)?
- What does it look like (post-Pandemic)?
- Strengths of the Schedule
- Weaknesses of the Schedule
- Opportunities of the Schedule
- Threats of the Schedule
- Faculty Experiences
- Student Feedback

4x4 Scheduling

Block
Scheduling

2.5 hours/
day

4 days /
week

One course
/ block



Keeping in mind...

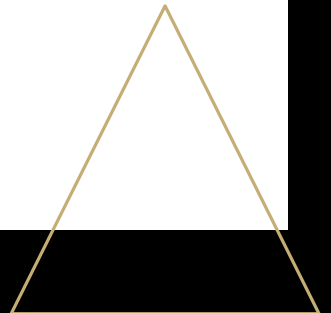
150 contact
hours

Student
Learning
Outcomes

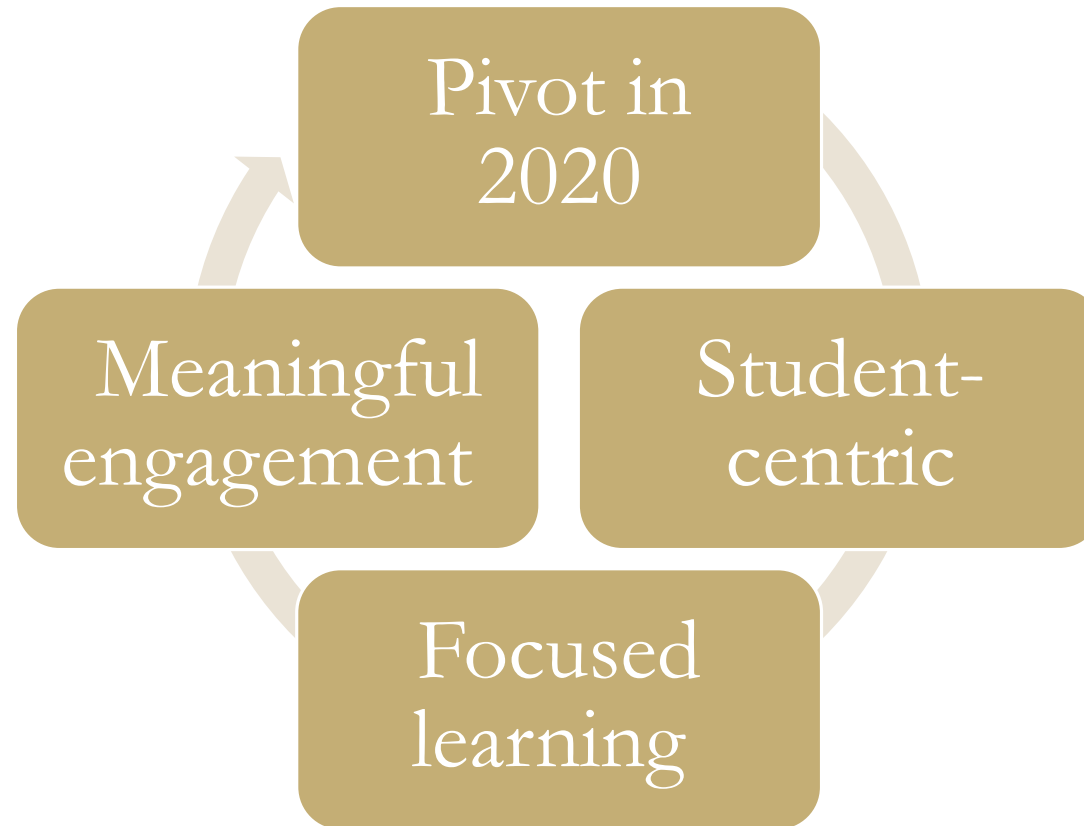
Course
Learning
Objectives

Assessments

Feedback



But why tho?



Ying and Yang

DURING THE PANDEMIC

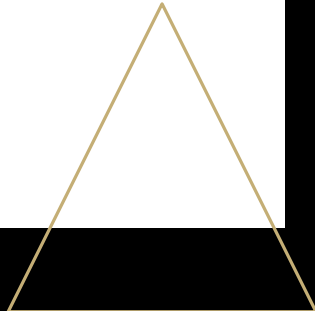
- Groups A and B
- Remote and in-person
- Newer pedagogy

POST-PANDEMIC

- All students in class
- In-person instruction
- Newer outlook

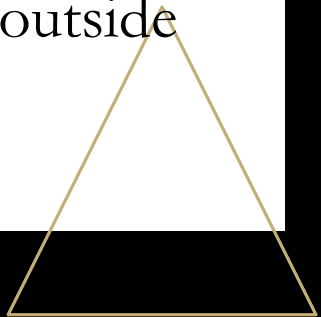


Strengths of the Schedule

- The efficacy of block scheduling was examined through four quantitative measures: final grades, % of D-F-Ws, absentee rate, and first-year retention. Academic Year 2020-21 with block scheduling was compared against pre-covid, 16-week semesters of AY 2017-18, AY 2018-19 and Fall of AY 2019-20 for all traditional day, undergraduate students.
 - All quantitative measures showed block scheduling produced positive results: the overall final averages were higher; percent of D-F-Ws were lower; absenteeism decreased, and first-year retention increased.
- 

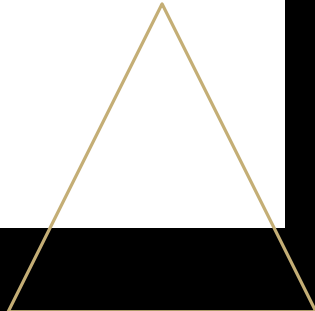


Weaknesses of the Schedule

- It is realized that not all courses fit the 4-week model. Comments from Drama students were extremely positive when performance-based courses were moved from a 4-week to an 8-week format.
 - Science (STEM) courses, particularly those that require a lab, will similarly be moved to the 8-week format.
 - When students are out sick, they miss more time because of the condensed schedule.
 - Students who are at school-related events (i.e. athletics) have more time missed from classes, which can create undue stress and restricted time commitments outside of class.
- 



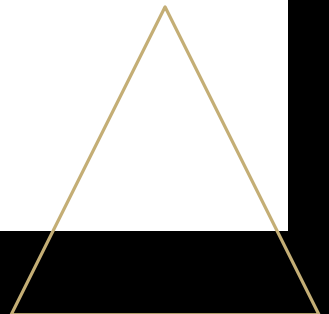
Opportunities of the Schedule

- 85.8% of the freshmen preferred the block schedule, up from 80.0% (previous) year. Most significant was the preference by sophomores: 73.9% prefer block scheduling as compared to 49.3% (previous) year. This was predicted, in that most current sophomores were introduced to block scheduling when they were freshmen and are continuing with what they know.
 - Similarly, the preference of juniors and seniors did not change much, presumably because they have been accustomed to the traditional 16-week format. It is expected that there will be an increase in the preference of block scheduling by juniors next year.
- 



Threats of the Schedule

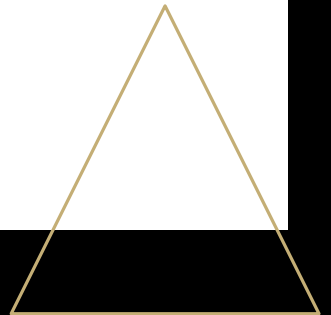
- The Fast Pace (in a negative sense) and Workload was mentioned by 43.9% of students (up from 41.5%).
- The 2.5 Hour Long Class Period was also the 2nd most common answer at 20.7%, up from 15.9% in 2020.





Administration Experience

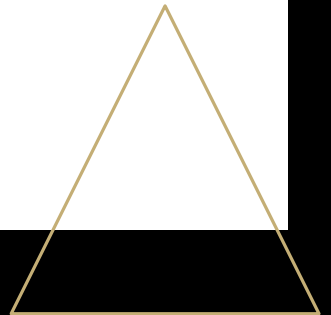
- All hands-on-deck
- Resilience Toolkit
- Extensive support
 - Instructional
 - Training





Faculty Experiences

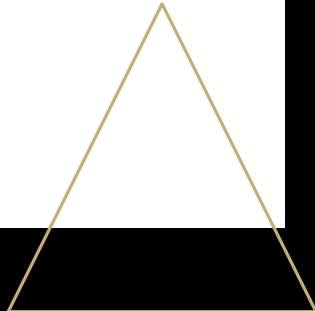
- Dr. Harika Rao (Management)
- Dr. David Spohn (Finance)
- Dr. Kendrick Scott (Leadership and Strategy)





Student Feedback (Positive)

What do you like best about the 4x4 Block scheduling?

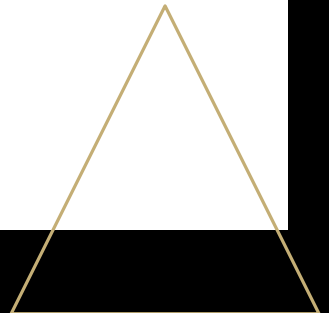
- It gives me the opportunity to focus completely on that one class for 4 weeks and it has provided better academic results.
 - It provides great flexibility for students to focus more on one or two classes at a time. I have learned so much more through this model. Having all classes at once makes it more difficult to focus on each.
 - Flexibility with working and being able to focus on 1-2 classes at a time. I feel that I am able to understand the content better.
- 



Student Feedback (Negative)

What do you like the least about the 4x4 Block scheduling?

- Sometimes the material is a little too much for the amount of time we have.
- When you get behind it is very, very difficult to get caught up, there can be a lot of work at a time and long classes.
- There is no time to learn the material, get to know professors; there is information and discussions that will never happen because there is only one month.



Thank you!



Harika Rao

Hrao@lynn.edu

RT Good

Rgood@lynn.edu

LYNN
UNIVERSITY

David Spohn

dspohn@lynn.edu

Kendrick Scott

Kscott@lynn.edu