Winter Term

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More than two thousand WKU students are cramming a semester of learning into just three weeks by taking advantage of winter term.

Amy Bingham has more in this week’s View from the Hill.

Whether it’s catching up on a class you dropped or lightening your regular semester course load, there are lots of reasons for earning up to four credit hours during winter term.

Alicia Bingham \ Program Coord., Summer Session/Winter Term

Dr. Fred Gibson \ Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport

Don’t let the empty campus fool you, there’s plenty of learning going on during WKU’s winter term.

“Winter term is an optional three week session that WKU offers between the fall and spring semester.”

Bingham says this is the tenth year for winter term and the numbers continue to climb.

“In 2006 we had 1500 students. This year, ten years later we are looking at 2100 students so we’ve seen grown in both enrollment and the number of courses offered.”

Associate Professor Fred Gibson has taught an on-line course in Facility, Planning and Design all ten years.

“It’s really challenging to take the curriculum down from a full course to three weeks both for the instructor and the student.”

With 60 percent of the nearly 300 classes offered on-line, Gibson says one of the keys is to create a successful on-line community.

“We’ve worked really hard to use all types of technology available whether it’s skype or tagerty or other software to link with our students to put faces with names.”

Winter term also presents a good opportunity for students to travel.

“We have study abroad classes that go anywhere around the world as well as study away that go anywhere in the US.”

During this winter term, WKU students and faculty will be studying on every continent except Antartica.

“You can’t really learn about the rock formations in Hawaii in Bowling Green Kentucky. It’s just a great opportunity and experience to get your hands on.”

Bingham says she thinks the winter term program will continue to grow especially when it comes to on-line and travel courses. Her office is now gearing up for the three week summer session that begins in May.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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