

# School Year/Learning Options

## School Year

**Please consult the college's Schedule of Credit Classes Bulletin for specific beginning and ending dates of the semesters/sessions.**

### Fall Semester

Classes for the fall semester begin the latter part of August and conclude before Christmas. Grade and scholastic standing reports are made available to students late in December. Formal graduation ceremonies are held at the end of the fall semester.

### Spring Semester

Classes for the spring semester begin the middle part of January and conclude in early May. Formal graduation ceremonies are held at the end of the spring semester.

### Maymester Session

Odessa College offers a mini-semester between the end of the spring semester and the beginning of summer school if the calendar allows. This mini-semester is similar to Odessa College's midwinter semester and will allow students to enroll in a three-hour course, which, together with both summer sessions will provide the opportunity to do the normal course work for a normal semester. This schedule opportunity is open to all college students who would like to maximize their number of semester hours in the summer.

### Summer Sessions I and II

The summer sessions consist of two terms of approximately five weeks each, although some programs may have courses that are shorter or longer, depending upon the need. Classes are held Monday through Thursday, during both day and evening hours. Students may enroll in as many as seven semester hours in each five week session. Credit earned in a course is equivalent to that offered in the same course during a regular semester. Information regarding summer sessions can be obtained from the OC Help Center.

### Midwinter Semester

OC offers a special short-term session to accommodate students who want to complete a course during the interim period between regularly-

scheduled semesters. A midwinter interim session is held following the end of the fall semester and prior to the beginning of the spring semester. Students may complete only one course during this special session.

### Day and Evening Classes

Day and evening classes are available to help OC students meet their individual needs. A wide variety of courses is offered for those individuals who want to broaden their educational backgrounds.

Students may complete requirements for an associate degree or certificate plan in most programs during evening hours, although the length of time to complete the programs may be longer than suggested for full-time day students.

### Weekend Classes

All courses taught on weekends parallel those offered in the regular term except that they are compressed into a shorter time span. Full academic recognition is given these courses, and the time spent and the credit earned is equivalent to that of a regular session.

## Distance Education/OC Global

**OC Global is the name of Odessa College's distance education department. OC Global offers accredited completely online courses and degrees. OC Global consists of our 16-week and 8-week online and videoconferencing courses. Go to [www.myocglobal.com](http://www.myocglobal.com).**

### Online Courses and Degrees

Most of our regular face-to-face courses are also offered online through OC Global. These courses are 16-weeks or 8-weeks long. OC Global offers seven completely online degrees, and through our partnership with the Virtual College of Texas (VCT), you have access to over 150 Associate degrees and certificates. (See VCT description below.) We also partner with Bellevue University to allow you to apply all of your OC credits towards an accelerated bachelor's degree program.

### WebEx (Video Conferencing) Courses

These courses are broadcasted live through the Internet using our WebEx videoconferencing system. Students are able to interact with their instructors in real-time using instant messaging, whiteboard and webcam tools. Students participate in these courses from home or at one of our extension centers.

### Virtual College of Texas (VCT)

VCT allows students to take online classes or begin work on an online degree from a partner college if the course or degree is not readily available at Odessa College. Students have access to hundreds of online courses from colleges throughout the state. Starting and ending dates may vary from those of Odessa College's courses. For a list of courses and online degrees offered through VCT go to: <http://www.vct.org/>. To register for a VCT course or program, contact the OC Global department at 432-335-6783.

### Extension Centers

The Pecos Technical Training Center provides many of the courses, both credit and Continuing

Education, that are offered on the Odessa College main campus. Odessa College also offers classes and programs although more limited in number and scope, at extension sites in Monahans, Andrews and Seminole.

Students registering for classes at the Pecos Center may register at that center during the designated registration time for Pecos.-Students have the option of registering online, the extension center or on the OC main campus.

Registration dates and times are listed in the schedule of credit classes for each semester. Area newspapers and radio stations also carry notices of registration dates and times.

Information about classes offered at any of the extension sites is available online or on campus from the OC Help Center, Registrar's Office and the Wrangler Express. Specific information about course offerings at the Pecos Technical Training Center is also available from the center staff.

## Career and Technical Programs

Odessa College offers a wide variety of technical programs that focus on the high-wage, high-skill, and high demand career fields of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These programs enable students to enter their chosen career fields as skilled employees after one or two years of college work.

These programs are designed to meet local, regional, and statewide labor-market needs and increase the employability of students. Our innovative yet realistic approach to career and technical education is made possible through the support of local industry, businesses and public agencies that look to the community college for skilled personnel. New programs are added following a data-driven process that incorporates community workforce needs, student interests, and economic factors.

OC continually works with prospective employers to assist in placement of graduates and to keep programs up-to-date with current job requirements. Essential occupational skills are taught in these classes by faculty who have years of working experience, as well as appropriate academic credentials.

Career and Technical programs carry college credit leading to an associate in applied science degree, a certificate of technology or a certificate of completion. Additionally, career and technical programs provide opportunities for students to earn industry-recognized licensures or credentials, or transfer to four-year universities.

## Continuing Education and Workforce Training

Odessa College offers a wide variety of non-credit short-term courses and training programs in the areas of personal growth and enjoyment, professional development and job skill enhancement. These courses range from one-day workshops to one-year programs. Continuing education credit (CEUs) are awarded for successful completion of most courses. Many professionals may obtain CEUs for certification and licensure requirements.

Non-credit courses, seminars, teleconferences and workshops offer a wide range of activities intended to accommodate individuals of all ages. There are no entrance requirements for most continuing education courses. A schedule of continuing education classes may be obtained from the Continuing Education Office in Deaderick Hall, by calling 432-335-6582 or by checking on the Web at [www.odessa.edu](http://www.odessa.edu).

### Workforce Training for Business and Industry

Your company's employee training needs, like your company's products, are unique. Odessa College Continuing Education works with business to provide training and education for your employees. We provide quality; cost-effective workforce training that can be customized to address your specific needs. You can enroll employees in courses offered or we can bring the course to your business site.

### Adult Basic Education

Odessa College offers basic education classes for adults who have not completed high school and English classes for adults whose first language is not English. During a typical school year, enrollment in Adult Basic Education classes averages 900 students. The Texas Educating Adults Management System Report shows a total of 901 students were enrolled in the 2009-2010 academic year. Of those, 44 students were enrolled at the Adult Secondary Education (ASE) level. 57% completed ASE. 80 students successfully achieved their GED certification from all levels of enrolled students.

Odessa College's ABE Program has met or surpassed 100% of State and Federal Performance Standards for the past seven years.

Adult Basic Education classes range from level one instruction, to teach adults to read and write, through level four instruction, to prepare adults to successfully complete the state administered high school equivalency General Education Development (GED) test. Upon enrollment, students are administered a state prescribed reading, math, and language test to determine the level of instruction needed. Classroom instruction consists of five major subject areas, math, reading, language, science, and social studies. Students are expected to work on all subject areas. Classes are self-paced. Therefore, course length varies according to the individual and the individual's needs. An online GED Preparation and Ready For Work Program was added for 2010-2011 for Alpine and The Big Bend. We have received funding to expand this program to Andrews, Kermit, Pecos and Odessa for 2011. This will allow student to pursue their GED preparation in class, at home and wherever they have internet connections. The students can also explore numerous work requirements that may be addressed in the software programs available on our site. TEA has funded software for our GED to Post Secondary Transition efforts. That program begins in March of 2011 and will be an online component to augment efforts between Odessa College ABE and Student Services to promote and assist students with their decision to continue to Post-Secondary Education and/or certificate programs that lead to employment. Additional components to be added include: COMPASS Post-Secondary Learning Path; GED Learning Path Set to Post-Secondary; TEAS Post-Secondary Learning Path; and Post-Secondary Courses Library.

English language instruction is offered for out-of-school adults whose first language is not English. Odessa College provides five levels of progressive instruction in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Interactive listening and computer labs supplement classroom instruction with student access to the Internet. We also have Rosetta Stone available for students in our two ESL labs.

Students may enroll in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in any of three trimesters opening in August, January, and April. All students are administered a state prescribed placement

exam to determine oral and literacy skill levels before they are admitted to classes. Upon successful completion of the five levels of instruction, students are transitioned into Adult Basic Education classes for more formal instruction in higher level academic preparation.

Adult Basic Education and English (ESOL) classes are provided free of charge. Books and other materials are provided. Classes on the Odessa College campus are conducted in Continuing Education Annex buildings B and C, across from the main entrance to the college. Classes are held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is an afternoon class for adults who have passed a portion of the GED. ABE classes are also conducted in Andrews, Kermit, Pecos, and Alpine/Big Bend Region. For more information on classes, registration dates, and requirements, contact the Adult Basic Education department at 432-335-6380 or come to the office in Annex B.

## Upward Bound

Upward Bound at Odessa College is one of the first TRIO programs in West Texas. Its main mission is to help increase the rates at which area high school students enroll in and graduate from a post-secondary institution. Students served by Upward Bound should be a potential first generation college student, a low-income individual (meet Federal Income Guidelines) or an individual who has a high risk for academic failure. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Federal Trio Programs, OC Upward Bound currently serves 60 high school students from 11 schools in Andrews, Kermit, Odessa and Pecos. Ninth through twelfth grade students with tremendous academic potential and strong need for academic support services are enrolled in the program to receive year-round services including tutoring, progressive instruction, academic advisement, simulated college experience, career exploration, mentoring, counseling, basic and study skill-building and social and cultural enrichment.

During the school year, Upward Bound participants receive academic and career services where they come to the OC campus during the week for tutoring sessions and on Saturdays for enrichment classes and field trips. During the six-week summer residential program, students live on the OC campus in a supervised residence hall and take classes in math, science, career exploration, foreign language, and English composition and literature. They also participate in cultural and other educational activities during the summer session.

For further information, please contact the Upward Bound Office at 432-335-6312.

## Community Recreation

Classes offered through the college's Community Recreation program allow people of all ages to learn or improve in a number of lifetime activities.

The department's mission is to provide a sportive, educational environment for the community and to help people feel good about their body image and be proud of themselves despite their age.

The 110,000 sq. ft. recreational and fitness center offers:

- Heated indoor pool
- Indoor track
- Aerobics , water aerobics and aqua zumba
- Zumba and other dance classes
- Yoga & Pilates
- Kettle bell (weights)
- Weight room
- Six racquetball courts
- Hot tub
- Scuba
- Swimming Lessons
- Summer Camps

❖ Two gyms – one varsity gym and one community gym

❖ Building and pool rentals available. Contact 432-335-6348.

OC encourages the community residents to use the facility by purchasing a membership by the semester – fall, spring, or summer – and there are no contracts for the purchase of this membership.

To enroll for a course or purchase a membership, come to the Sports Center or call 432-335-6348 (6FIT).