

It's time, once again, for our holiday unemployment compensation advisory.

If you are paid only for time in the classroom, then once you've taught your last class, you are eligible for unemployment compensation if you are available for work and don't have other non-teaching work that puts you over the income eligibility threshold.

Many claims workers think that teachers are not eligible for unemployment compensation over "recess" or "breaks" in the academic calendar. But the situation of part-time ("temporary") community college instructors is somewhat different from teachers under contract. A promise of class assignments for the following term does not constitute "reasonable assurance" of employment if the assignment is contingent on enrollment, funding, or other program changes.

Furthermore, **AB2412** penalizes districts that willfully provide incorrect information on a faculty members employment status, including the question of "reasonable assurance" of future employment.

Another question many part-time instructors wonder about is eligibility for unemployment compensation when course load is reduced. The formula for calculating eligibility is fairly simple: 75% of your weekly earnings will be deducted from your weekly benefit amount and you will be paid the difference.

Keep in mind that weekly earnings are based on when you did the work, not when you get paid for it. If you will be compensated for professional development activity that won't be paid until the end of the term, be sure to report it in the week that you earn it.