

Credit Hour Policy

A credit hour represents the amount of work represented in intended student learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that approximates one hour (50 minutes) of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for a 15-week semester, or the equivalent amount of work over a term of a different length. The requirement is the same for undergraduate and graduate courses, although the level of activity is expected to differ. The course syllabus should include a statement of this expectation and describe the nature of the out-of-class work, e.g., readings, research, threaded discussions.

The unit credit hour is assigned to three hours of student work per week in other academic activities, e.g., labs, internships, independent study, studio, hybrid, or online, throughout the 15-week semester, or approximately 45 hours of work. Syllabi for these courses should articulate expectations of student work that will demonstrate equivalency to warrant the credit awarded.

For hybrid courses and accelerated courses, where some face-to-face instruction has been replaced with an online component, the syllabus should communicate to students the expectation of 45 hours per semester for each unit of credit through class, online, and other out-of-class work.

Assignment of credit hours for courses will occur during program/course approval processes and be monitored through faculty, curriculum, and program reviews established by the university.