



**Area:** Instruction

**Policy Name:** Credit Hour Definition

**Policy Statement:** The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent measure of the quality of a student's academic engagement and to ensure accuracy of the assignment of credit hours to activities earning academic credit. Course delivery utilizes many different modalities. The awarding of academic credit for a course is based on the amount of time a student receives direct instruction and works beyond instruction time on the course content.

**Procedures:** The "credit hour" is the basic unit of measure used for determining college credit. The accepted definition of a lecture credit hour is one (1) hour of instruction (fifty minutes) or 750 minutes for the semester. At SATC, the definition of a laboratory credit hour is two (2) hours of instruction (100 minutes). The college maintains a list of the lecture and laboratory credit hour breakdown for each course offered and this also appears in the course descriptions in the College Catalog. Students are expected to spend two (2) hours of work outside of class per week for each credit hour for a full semester. Therefore, the College, in accordance with federal government guidelines and Higher Learning Commission expectations, defines the credit hour as:

An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

### **Lecture Class**

For a lecture class, one credit is considered to be fifty (50) minutes of lecture class time and two hours per week of work outside of class. For the typical three-credit hour class, a student spends three hours per week in class and should expect to complete at least six hours per week of work outside of class. Typically, this is three 50-minute class sessions or two 75-minute class sessions per week for a full semester class.

Example: a three credit-hour lecture course would need to meet 150 minutes per week and 2250 minutes for the semester. If a course is scheduled less than a full semester, then the class session must be longer. Example: an 8-week course would need to meet twice as long per week since it is half the number of weeks in a full semester.

### **Lecture/Lab Class**

For a lecture/lab class, instruction will be given in two instructional environments: classroom lecture and a laboratory session.

Example, in a two-credit hour course with one credit assigned as lecture and one credit assigned as laboratory, the course would need to meet fifty (50) minutes each week in lecture and 100 minutes each week in a scheduled laboratory session. For each credit hour of lecture, a student should also expect to spend an additional two hours per week outside of class. It is also acceptable to add the lecture and lab time together and divide by the number



of class sessions in the semester. In this example of meeting 150 minutes per week, if the class met twice a week, each class session would be 75 minutes in length.

**Distance Learning Class**

Distance learning classes and hybrid classes, a combination of distance learning and classroom instruction, shall include an equivalent amount of instruction and student workload per credit hour as the comparable lecture class or lecture/lab class.

**Internship, practicum, or field study credit**

One credit hour is defined as a minimum of (40) hours of supervised work in a field placement each semester.

**Nursing Clinical**

One credit hour of nursing clinical is defined as a minimum of forty-five (45) hours of planned learning experience in a clinical setting.

**Contact:** Chief Academic Officer

**Related:**

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