

Assignment of Credit Hours

Credit hours for courses are based, in general, on contact hours. The ratio of credit to contact is shown below for each of the major course types for full term courses (13-14 weeks). It is assumed that each hour of class time spent in a lecture or seminar will be accompanied by 2 to 3 hours of time spent in independent preparation (readings, papers, etc).

Class component types as defined by the University Registrar's Office.

Lecture

Definition

Primarily one-way communication of prepared discourse from instructor to students.

Number of contact hours per week

One weekly class contact hour per credit

Recitation

Definition

Instructor prepares the subject matter and leads students in a joint examination thereof. Not supplemental to lectures.

Number of contact hours per week

One weekly class contact hour per credit. This may be led by a GSI with oversight by the instructor.

Discussion

Definition

Students and instructor engage in two-way communication usually based upon the contents of a lecture.

Number of contact hours per week

One weekly class contact hour per credit. This may be led by a GSI with oversight by the instructor.

Laboratory

Definition

Instructor supervises investigations by the class.

Number of contact hours per week

Two to four weekly class contact hours per credit.

- There may be *fewer* class contact hours per week for labs presenting material not associated with related course lectures, or for labs requiring students to put in additional time before or after class for preparatory research and/or writing reports. (Example: A 1-credit lab that meets 2 hours per week.)
- There may be *more* contact hours per week for labs presenting supplementary exercises to another course, or for labs that are self-contained and involve no preparation or reporting outside of lab time. (Example: A 1-credit lab that meets 4 hours per week.)

Seminar

Definition

Students prepare materials and lead discussion under instructor's guidance.

Number of contact hours per week

For each seminar, the number of weekly class contact hours may range from 2/3 of an hour to 2 hours per credit.

- There may be *fewer* class contact hours per week for seminars based on students' original research. (Example: A 3-credit seminar course that meets 2 hours per week.)
- There may be *more* class contact hours per week for seminars based on students' experiences and/or case studies. (Example: A 3-credit seminar course that meets 4 hours per week.)

Independent Study

Definition

Students receive individual consultation and guidance from the instructor. Total student effort should be comparable to that involved in lecture or seminar courses.

Number of contact hours per week

Contact between instructor and student is required, but not necessarily on a weekly basis.