



AA-6 CREDIT HOUR POLICY

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Reviewed: 7/1/2024

Revised: 7/1/2024

Monitoring Unit: Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

I. PURPOSE

This policy defines the amount of instruction and student work expected for each credit hour (or unit of credit).

II. DEFINITIONS

Credit Hour - 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:

- a. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or
- b. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

III. GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

1. Undergraduate lecture courses have a ratio of 15 contact hours to 1 credit hour.
2. Undergraduate lab/simulation/clinical courses have a ratio of 30-45 contact hours to 1 credit hour.
3. Graduate level lecture courses have a ratio of 15-16 contact hours to 1 credit hour.
4. Graduate lab/simulation/clinical courses have a ratio of 45-60 contact hours to 1 credit hour.

5. Rather than credit hours, the School of Medicine measures course weight in terms of curriculum hours or contact hours. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), which is the accrediting body for medical-education programs in the United States and Canada, does not require a number of credits. Instead, they define program length and academic credit in terms of weeks of instruction, requiring a minimum of 130 weeks of instruction for educational programs leading to the Doctor of Medicine degree. Within those weeks, the School of Medicine is expected to provide instructional hours that are roughly commensurate with national norms.

6. Rather than employing a semester-based curriculum with credit hours earned per course per semester, the School of Dentistry employs an academic-year based curriculum with courses spanning the academic year and clock hours earned per course rather than the traditional model of credit hours per semester. The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), the professional accrediting body for dental education, defines program length as a minimum of four academic years.

IV. PROCEDURES

1. Credit hour determination should be overseen by academically qualified faculty members in each school and/or program. These individuals, including academic deans, program directors, curriculum directors, and curriculum committee members, are expected to regularly review and evaluate course offerings and programs of study to ensure high academic quality and appropriate credit hours.

2. LSUHSC-NO record credits on the official transcript in either credit hours or course hours, depending on the academic program.

V. REFERENCES

SACSCOC Credit Hours Policy Statement

<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/Credit-Hours.pdf>

LCME, Functions and Structure of a Medical School

<https://lcme.org/publications/>

CODA, Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs

<https://coda.ada.org/standards>