Credit hours and credit-hour loads

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Undergraduate students:

Full-time undergraduate students are those enrolled in at least 12 credits in a fall or spring semester. Part-time students are those enrolled in fewer than 12 credits in a fall or spring semester.

The unit of measure for counting college credit is the Semester Credit Hour, or SCH. One SCH represents the work done in a typical class that has one hour (50 minutes) of in-class instruction per week for one semester (about 15 weeks) and assigns at least two hours of out-of-class work per week. Many classes have a credit value of three SCH, so they meet for three hours (150 minutes of instruction) each week and assign at least six hours of out-of-class work per week. Classes in academic terms that are shorter than fifteen weeks will have more instructional minutes and more out-of-class work per week so that the total is equivalent to a course that meets for a full fifteen-week semester.

Classes that do not have a ratio of two hours out-of-class work for each hour of in-class instruction, such as laboratories, online (asynchronous) courses, clinical rotations, internships, etc., will require an equivalent amount of work for each SCH as classes that do have the 2:1 ratio. The amount of work done in a class is measured not just by the number of minutes of instruction and out-of-class assignments, but by the learning outcomes that are achieved. The learning outcomes that are achieved in a traditional face-to-face course in a regular fifteen-week semester are the standard against which we measure the learning achieved in courses taught in other modalities, e.g., online, or in different time frames, e.g., an 8-week term. Full-time undergraduate students may not carry fewer than 12 credits a semester. Students may receive permission from their Department Chairperson for up to 19 credits. Academic Dean approval is required for 20-21 credits. Under no circumstances may a student register for more than 21 credit hours for a single semester. No student may register for more than two courses during a summer term or one course during winter intersession.

A student enrolled only in AED-4990 Supervised Student Teaching, CED-4990 Supervised Student Teaching, or PE-4990 Supervised Student Teaching is considered a full-time student.

Graduate students:

Students in combined undergraduate and graduate degree programs carry the same load as undergraduate students, namely, students are full time when enrolled for 12 or more credits per semester. Once admitted to the graduate division, students in combined degree programs may not take more than 18 credits per semester. Students pursuing stand-alone graduate degrees are considered full time when enrolled for six or more credits per semester.

Graduate students are required to have permission from the Graduate Academic Dean for course approval. Under no circumstances may a graduate student register for more than 12 credit hours for a single semester without approval.