

Meeting Pattern Credit Hour Descriptions

Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee, November 2011

The standard is Carnegie Units: a credit hour means the class meets for 50 minutes for 16 weeks or a total of 800 minutes per credit hour per semester. Rounding is acceptable if necessary; holidays and other exigencies may reduce a 3-credit lecture course from the nominal 2400 contact hours to 2000+.

In the following, "hour" in quotes means a 50-minute period. The notation (800/1600) indicates that 800 "hours" of direct contact constitutes a credit hour, as does 1600 "hours" of other effort (for categories like labs and independent study, where there is specific other effort, but not including homework).

Meeting Pattern	Description	Direct Contact Hrs	Explanation
Clinical	A course activity in which students, under the supervision of a faculty member, are involved with direct treatment or observation of patients/clients.	(---/2400)	Nursing counts 3 clinical hours as 1 "hour," so (---/2400).
Colloquium	A course activity in which students attend a series of lectures delivered by experts in the field, but arranged by faculty.	(800/---)	These courses are typically 1 "hour"/week, therefore 1 credit.
Discussion	A course activity (generally associated with a lecture course) in which small groups of students, under the direction of a faculty member, are encouraged to interact and study various aspects of the subject through oral and written communications.	(800/---)	Just the same as lecture, because the faculty member is present.
Independent Study	A course in which students learn independently, meeting periodically with a faculty member to discuss and report progress; provides the opportunity to study material not normally covered or offered in the regular curriculum or course offerings.	(800/800)	Typically 1 contact "hour"/week, 2 independent "hours," therefore 3 credits.
Laboratory	A course activity in which students test, analyze, or demonstrate the applications of ideas, theories, techniques, and/or methods.	(---/1600 to 2400)	Per <i>Senate Rules 5.2.1</i> for undergraduates: 1600 for two "hours"/week; only counting hours scheduled for lab time. Nursing uses 2400.
Lecture	A course activity in which students learn primarily through a series of lectures delivered by the faculty member.	(800/---)	Standard lecture pattern.
Recitation	Course activity that supplements a lecture and includes discussion and problem-solving activities, often under the supervision of someone other than the instructor of record.	(800/---)	Typically 1 "hour"/week, therefore 1 credit.
Research	A course in which the principal student activity is to conduct independent investigation under the supervision of a faculty member (pre-qualifying only).	(800/800)	Same as independent study. If the student meets for one "hour"/week with the faculty member, the student must add 2 "hours" to get 3 credits.

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(continued)

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Residency	A course offered exclusively to provide residence credit for a graduate or professional degree.	(---/1600)	The student might meet with advisor or not, but is expected to work at least 4 "hours"/week on thesis (for course XX767). The number of credits is stipulated by the course description and is independent of contact hours.
Seminar	A course activity (generally offered as an independent course) in which small groups of students, under the direction of a faculty member, engage in the advanced, intensive study of a selected topic(s) through oral and written communications.	(800/---)	Typically meeting 1 "hour"/week, therefore 1 credit.
Practicum	A required course activity designed to help students integrate classroom learning with actual work experience emphasizing the practical applications of theory; includes non-clinical internships/externships and specifically includes student teaching.	(800/1600)	The classroom learning is at the 800 rate, and outside work such as teaching is 1600. So a course that meets weekly for 1 "hour" and students work for 4 "hours" counts for 3 credits.
Studio	A course normally associated with visual/creative arts activities that require specialized facilities beyond those of a normal classroom/lab and emphasize individual development through expressive media.	(800/1600)	There may be no classroom component at all; a student would need to work 6 "hours"/week for a 3-credit course.