

SAASC Proposal  
Re: Senate Rule 5.2.1  
17 February 2021

Senate Rule 5.2.1 Student Load details the number of credit hours a University of Kentucky student may attempt during each of the academic terms throughout the year. However, with the growing variation in course modalities and different term/session lengths and different course durations (i.e., part-term courses) within terms/sessions came the need for updated guidance on attempted credit hour load, regardless of the modality, term, or duration.

The Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) recommended to the Senate Council (SC) that Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) review SR 5.2.1 to standardize the student credit hour attempts for undergraduates, graduates, and professional school students for the various terms and academic statuses. The attached table shows the total credit hours a student can attempt (Student Load) per semester/term/session, or more importantly, the equivalent rolling periods of time. The attempted credit hours include all types of registration (i.e., graded credit, audit, P/F, etc.) and courses taken at other institution(s) and/or via Distance Learning.

The top two rows of the table show the typical duration of each semester/term/session and how each semester/term/session is commonly known. But as specific calendars may vary, and an individual course's begin/end dates may not correspond with the semester/term/session dates, the numbers in parentheses represent the course duration (in maximum number of weeks) to be classified as part of the specific semester/term/session.

Currently SR 5.2.1 is reasonably clear as to the maximum number of credit hours an undergraduate student may attempt for the traditional fall/spring terms and the summer session(s), whether in good standing or on probation. There were gaps in SR 5.2.1, and after review by SAASC, the table represents the recommendation by SAASC to SC concerning the maximum number of hours undergraduate students may attempt.

The SR's are less clear as to graduate students. While there is some historical guidance in summer sessions, there is no historical precedent for traditional fall/spring terms. Much like the professional schools, each program can determine the maximum number of credit hours a graduate student shall attempt. In the absence of a program's clear guidance, the SAASC recommends that graduate students be subject to the guidance represented in the table.

The table shows the maximum credit hours that a student may attempt in each semester/term/session, or within the equivalent rolling period of time, for each classification of student and academic standing. The semester/term/session is self-explanatory, but the rolling period of time reference can be illustrated by the following examples.

*Example 1) A student in good standing signs up for a 4-week class in the summer (to be classified as a 4-week class the class shall be completed in less than 6 weeks). During the duration that this 4-week class is offered, the student cannot attempt any more than 4 credit hours. If another class begins (or ends) within the duration of this 4-week course, the student will not be allowed to enroll in the course if the combined credit hours of the overlapping courses is greater than 4 credit hours.*

*Example 2) Same student in example 1, but this time the student signs up for 13 credit hours (the maximum) in the summer 12-week session, but due to the timing and duration of courses there is an overlap of an 8-week and 4-week course. The student may not enroll in both courses if the overlapped courses have total credit hours exceeding the maximum of 4 credits for a 4-week course. The fact that the majority of the 8-week course happens after the 4-week course ends, or the majority of the 4-week course is finished before the 8-week course begins, does not affect this outcome.*

*Example 3) AN undergraduate student on probation signs up for 12 credit hours in the fall semester. The student also enrolls in a 3-hour distance learning course at XYZ University, a 10-week class that starts in mid-November (per proposed Senate Rules this will be treated as an 8-week course because the duration is less than 12 weeks). Since the fall semester and the DL course overlap, the student would be in violation of the maximum number of credit hours. The violation is not because the total 15 credit hours that the student is attempting violates the maximum number for the fall semester (clearly it is exactly the maximum), but since the 15 hours exceeds the maximum of 7 credit hours for any rolling 8-week term, the student would not be allowed to attempt the external class. Per university policy, the program does not have to accept this transfer credit for violating the attempted maximum credit hours allowed.*

Do note that in every case, the Dean (or designee), and in the case of graduate students, the Director of Graduate Studies may permit a student to exceed the maximum attempted credit hours. But absent these specific permissions, the table represents the standards of the university.

The table shows the total credit hours a student may attempt (Student Load), per session or equivalent rolling periods of time, for all types of registration (i.e., graded credit, audit, P/F, etc.), including courses taken at another institution or via Distance Learning.

Typical session length, in weeks (and maximum durations), once course(s) starts:	15 (< 16)	3 (< 4)	4 (< 6)	6 (< 8)	8 (< 12)	12 (< 15)
typically referred to as:	Fall / Spring	Winter	Summer 4 wk	Summer 6 wk	Summer 8 wk	Summer 12 wk
<b>Undergraduate Student</b>						
Normal	15/16	3	3	6	8	12
Maximum <sup>1</sup>	19	3	4	7	9	13
Maximum while on Probation <sup>1</sup>	15	NA	3	6	7	11
University Scholars Student <sup>2</sup>	16	3	3	6	8	12
<b>Graduate Student</b>						
Normal	9	2	3	5	6	9
Maximum <sup>2</sup>	15 <sup>3</sup>	3	4	6	9	12
Maximum while on Probation <sup>2</sup>	9	NA	3	3	4	7
<b>Professional Colleges</b>	See college rules for specific requirements. If none, follow Graduate Student rules					

<sup>1</sup> A student may be permitted by the Dean, or Dean's designee, of the student's college to carry extra credit hours.

<sup>2</sup> A student may be permitted by the Dean of the Graduate School, or the Dean's designee, and the Director of Graduate Studies to carry extra credit hours.

<sup>3</sup> Recommended. The maximum number of credit hours for a graduate student during the 15 week fall or spring semesters may be determined by the program