

SGSHS Credit Hour Calculations

The School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences follows a semester format with each semesters having a minimum of 15 weeks which includes a week for final examinations. The summer semester consists of a minimum of 10 weeks of instruction including a week for final examinations. However, courses in the summer semester are calculated on the standard 15 weeks since they entail an equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time.

Credit hour definition for lecture courses:

$$1 \text{ credit hour} = \left(\begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ contact hour of classroom} \\ \text{or direct faculty instruction} \end{array} \right) + \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{minimum of 2 hours of out} \\ \text{of class student work} \end{array} \right),$$

with a minimum of 750 minutes of faculty directed instruction per 1 credit hour course per semester (15 weeks).

Credit hour definition of laboratory courses, practica, or dissertation research:

1 credit hour = 2 – 5 hours of laboratory work, practicums, or disseration work,

based on the amount of academically engaged time with a minimum of 100 to 250 contact minutes per week based on program ratios.

Formula for determination of Credit Hour: The following formula is utilized for all courses within the School of Graduate Studies in Health Sciences in determining the semester credit hour assignment:

$$\left(\frac{\text{minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{\text{hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{\text{days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{\text{weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (\text{ratio} \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

- A minimum of 50 minutes per hour for all equations, regardless of the type of course.
- The ratio would be 1:1 for lecture courses and range of 1:2-1:6 for laboratory, dissertation, practicum, or courses in which students prepare for lectures, etc. as part of the curriculum, such a that 1 credit hour would essentially require 2-6 hours of laboratory/practicum work.

Examples:

1. For a lecture course that meets for 1 hour 3 times a week, the credit hours to be awarded would be calculated as:

$$\left(\frac{50 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{3 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{15 \text{ weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (1 \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$(2250 \text{ minutes}) \div (750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$3 = \text{semester credit hours}$$

2. For a lecture course that meets for 2 hour 3 times a week, the credit hours to be awarded would be calculated as:

$$\left(\frac{50 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{2 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{3 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{15 \text{ weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (1 \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$(4500 \text{ minutes}) \div (750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$6 = \text{semester credit hours}$$

3. For a dissertation course that requires students full time participation in the completing experiments, writing manuscripts/dissertation, any work toward the completion of their dissertation, the credit hours to be awarded would be calculated as:

$$\left(\frac{50 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{8 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{5 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{15 \text{ weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (4 \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$(30,000 \text{ minutes}) \div (3,000 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$10 = \text{semester credit hours}$$

4. For a lecture/practicum or lecture/lab course or courses which would require student effects direct toward preparation of course materials, lecture, etc. as part of the curriculum, the contact hours for the lecture time and lab/practicum time would be combined. For instance, students meet for 1 hour of lecture a week but are required for participate in 4 hours of laboratory work or teaching practicum, the credit hours to be awarded would be calculated as:

$$\left(\frac{50 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{1 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{15 \text{ weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (1 \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$(750 \text{ minutes}) \div (750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$1 \text{ lecture} = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$\left(\frac{50 \text{ minutes}}{\text{hour}} \times \frac{4 \text{ hours}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{1 \text{ days}}{\text{week}} \times \frac{15 \text{ weeks}}{\text{semester}} \right) \div (2 \times 750 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$(3000 \text{ minutes}) \div (1500 \text{ minutes}) = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$3 \text{ lab/outside classwork} = \text{semester credit hours}$$

$$1 \text{ lecture hour} + 3 \text{ lab hours} = 4 \text{ credit hours}$$