

Credit Hour Definition

Babson defines a credit as the equivalent of one hour of direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work per week over the course of 14 weeks for one semester plus additional time for final exams. The standard for courses or other credit-bearing activities which grant different numbers of credits or which meet for concentrated time periods is the above standard adjusted accordingly. The Academic Policy Committees (APCs) at the undergraduate and graduate levels review all course proposals and their respective syllabi to determine that the combined class time and out-of-class effort in engaged academic time is commensurate with the number of credits awarded. The review considers appropriate rigor in the assignments, in the amount and quality of reading, and in other learning activities. Recognizing that in the present educational environment learning takes place in a variety of contexts, the APCs grant numbers of credit hours for non-traditional delivery formats, such as online and distance formats that may use asynchronous sessions, group work, independent studies, field experiences, etc., by determining how the total amount of engaged academic time associated with the pedagogy is substantially equivalent to the standard set forth above. Requirements for class meeting times, readings, and individual and team assignments are outlined in each class syllabus.