

## APPENDIX H CREDIT HOUR VALUE AND LENGTH OF TERM

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### Credit Hour Value

The credit hour is a unit by which an institution may measure its course work. The credit hour value for a course is determined primarily by the amount of time, the intensity of the educational experience, and the amount of outside preparation required by the student. For example, a lecture course with extensive reading or other out-of-class preparation would result in one credit for each hour per week; a laboratory experience with moderate out-of-the class preparation may equal one credit for two hours per week; a laboratory experience with little out-of-class preparation may equal one credit for three hours per week.

The traditional credit hour values assigned to a course for class time are the semester hour and the quarter credit hour. They convert as follows:

Quarter hours multiplied by two-thirds ( $2/3$ ) equal semester hours.  
Semester hours multiplied by one and one-half ( $1 \frac{1}{2}$ ) equal quarter hours.  
(There is a partial conversion chart at the end of this document.)

The following are generally accepted standards in Arkansas:

- 1 semester credit for each 12.5 class hours of lecture
- 1 semester credit for each 25 class hours of laboratory
- 1 semester credit for 37.5 hours of clinical, practicum, internship, shop instruction.

### Length of Term

The three common systems used to measure the length of a term are semester, quarter and trimester.

The semester is generally composed of 15 to 17 weeks of classes including final examinations.  
The quarter system is generally 10 to 12 weeks of classes including final exams.  
Summer quarters are sometimes subdivided into terms of shorter length.  
A trimester is 15-week terms including final examinations.

Under the semester system, a minimum of fifteen (15) fifty-minute class sessions, excluding labs, is required to award one semester hour of credit.  
A minimum of ten (10) fifty-minute class sessions excluding labs are required to award one quarter hour of credit.

### Exceptions

Credit hours **for non-traditional delivery** of courses or programs generally do not use the above lecture/laboratory/practicum formulas for credit calculation. Therefore, an institution must demonstrate that the clock or credit hours awarded are appropriate for the courses or degree programs and credentials. The institution may accomplish this by demonstrating that students completing these programs or courses have acquired equivalent levels of knowledge, skills, or competencies to those acquired in traditional formats.

There may be exceptions regarding lengths of terms and amounts of credit awarded for specific circumstances such as self-paced instruction, independent study, workshops, seminars, and

distance delivery where the instructional content and activities are selected appropriately. Furthermore, some institutions have adopted a course-based system, rather than a credit-hour system. Institutions that do not use the semester or quarter length as a measure to award credit must demonstrate that the amounts of credit awarded have been adjusted appropriately. Form 14 is to be used to include this information for each program.

### Conversion Chart

Semester Hours	Quarter Hours
1	1.5
2	3
3	4.5
4	6
5	7.5
6	9
7	10.5
8	12
9	13.5
10	15
11	16.5
12	18
13	19.5
14	21
15	22.5
16	24
17	25.5
18	27
19	28.5
20	30
21	31.5
22	33
23	34.5
24	36
25	37.5
26	39
27	40.5
28	42
29	43.5
30	45
35	52.5
60	90