

## Course Credit Hour Definition

### I. Policy Section

7.0 Instruction

### II. Policy Subsection

7.13

### III. Policy Statement

A credit hour gives value to an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement of those outcomes. **A credit hour requires a minimum of one hour of direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks.**

Many academic experiences are integral to courses or programs because they allow students to practice and apply their learning in the laboratory, studio or workplace. Each of these requires additional contact hours to earn a credit hour.

- *Clinicals require a minimum of 1.75* hours of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.
- *Laboratories, Music Ensembles, Studios, Practica, Internships, and Fieldwork require a minimum of 2 hours* of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.
- *Co-ops require a minimum of 5 hours* of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.
- *Lecture/Labs are a way to implement an instructional strategy particular to a discipline.* The department/program defines the credit hour/contact hour ratio according to the type of work required of students to meet the outcomes of those courses.

### IV. Reason for the Policy

These definitions are the ones currently in use at GRCC. Until now, they had not been memorialized as policy; they were only our practice.

V. Entities Affected by this Policy

- Students
- Faculty

VI. Who Should Read this Policy

- Staff
- Students
- Faculty

VII. Related Documents

GRCC Catalog

VIII. Contacts

Office of the Provost  
Registrar's

IX. Definitions

This policy provides the GRCC definition of a Credit Hour.

X. Procedures

This policy will guide establishing Credit Hours for new courses and validate credit hours for current courses as they are reviewed through the Course Approval and Review Progress (CARP).

<http://cms.grcc.edu/carp>

XI. Forms

N/A

XII. Effective Date

May 2012

XIII. Policy History

AGC Approved January 2012

XIV. Next Review/Revision Date

Initiation of review process—Winter 2015

Completion of review/revision—Winter 2016