

Effective: June 30, 2016

Academic Policy CREDIT HOUR

Approved: June 30, 2016
Faculty Senate
Deans' Council

Millersville University utilizes the credit hour (c.h.) as the basic unit for quantifying academic progress resulting from all forms of instruction (lecture, laboratory, studio, online, internships, independent study, etc.) The credit hour is based on the Carnegie Unit and is also known as the semester hour (s.h.). This policy applies to undergraduate and graduate level instruction.

When accompanied by direct evidence of student learning in the form of a passing grade, one credit hour is earned for each 50 minutes of direct instruction per week for a fifteen week semester when accompanied by two or more times that amount of time in out-of-class study. Thus a class that meets in lecture for 37.5 hours for the semester earns 3 credit hours. The expectation is that the student is working 5 or more additional hours per week in course-related activities.

For other forms of instruction (e.g., laboratory or studio) the ratio of in-class to out-of-class work is adjusted. Thus, a lab or studio that meets for 37.5 hours for the semester might earn 1, 1.5, or 2 credit hours depending on the out-of-class expectations.

For online courses, where time of direct instruction is difficult to quantify, students are expected to devote approximately $3 \times 37.5 = 112.5$ hours or more for a 3-credit class and achieve comparable learning outcomes to the equivalent face-to-face class.

Note: Faculty workload is not addressed in this policy. Faculty workload is addressed in the collective bargaining agreement.