

DEFINITION OF A CREDIT-HOUR

1. The assignment of credit-hours to a course occurs through a formal review process conducted at the appropriate levels of faculty governance.
2. For courses in lecture format, one credit-hour represents the subject content that can be delivered in one academic hour of contact time each week for the full duration of one academic semester, typically fourteen weeks along with a final examination period. For undergraduate courses, one credit-hour also includes associated work that can be completed by a typical student in 2-3 hours of effort outside the classroom. For graduate and professional courses taught in lecture format, 3-4 hours of outside work is expected for each academic hour of contact time.
3. For courses taught in other than lecture format (e.g., seminars, laboratories, independent study, clinical work, research, etc.), one credit-hour represents an amount of content and/or student effort that in aggregate is no less than that described in (2) above.

Background

The new Program Integrity rules issued by the U.S. Department of Education require CWRU to establish a definition of "credit hour." The definition is to apply to all of our degree programs (undergraduate through graduate/professional).

Boyd Kuhmer (University Compliance Officer) and Colleen Treml (Office of General Counsel) reviewed the draft above, and indicated that this type of definition would be adequate for satisfying Program Integrity needs. However, the Faculty Senate needs to be consulted before CWRU could officially adopt any such definition. This item was reviewed by the FSCUE and its Curriculum Subcommittee and the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies.

**Endorsed by the Committee on Graduate Studies and the Committee on Undergraduate Education
Approved by the Faculty Senate 4/25/12**