
Credit Hour Policy

Version: 1.0

Responsible University Official: Provost

Version Effective Date: July 1, 2012

1.0 Introduction

SLU is required by U.S. Department of Education (DOE) regulations ([34 CFR 600.2](#)) and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) [accreditation requirements](#) to have, and to consistently implement, a policy defining “credit hour” at SLU that is consistent with the [DOE definition](#). This policy fulfills those requirements.

2.0 Policy Statements

Saint Louis University defines a semester hour (typically referred to as a “credit hour”) as the unit of academic credit awarded for the attainment of intended learning outcomes verified by evidence of student achievement, and as represented on official University academic records by the successful completion of an amount of student work as detailed below.

For classroom and/or direct faculty instruction (regardless of delivery mode):

One semester hour of credit is awarded for the attainment of intended learning outcomes resulting from ***both***:

- 1) Student engagement in a reasonable equivalent of one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week (typically 50 minutes) for approximately 15 weeks (or the equivalent amount of work over a different period of time)
- 2) Student completion of a reasonable equivalent of a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks (or the equivalent amount of work over a different period of time).

For experiential learning (laboratory work, studio work, internships, practica, and related educational experiences/environments):

One semester hour of credit is awarded for the attainment of intended learning outcomes resulting from student engagement in a reasonable equivalent of three hours of educational activity/experience each week (typically 2.5 clock hours) for approximately 15 weeks (or the equivalent amount of work over a different period of time)

Note: Pedagogical and other methodological distinctions among academic disciplines may result in requirements for amounts of student work that exceed – but may not fall short of – the minimums established in this definition.

4.0 Approvals

This policy was:

1. Approved by CADD: 2012
2. Approved by the Provost: 2012