

SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS The semester credit hour provides the basis for measuring the amount of engaged learning time expected of a typical student enrolled not only in the traditional classroom settings but also in laboratories, internships, studios, clinical, field work, experimental learning and in distance and correspondence education. Credit hours are the common currency for academic credit used by colleges and universities to calculate, record, and interpret the number of credits students earn to fulfill degree, certificate, and other similar academic requirements. The value of a credit hour can be determined by contact time, the educational experience, and out-of-class preparation by the student.

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement, for the various modes of instruction offered at Galveston College, in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. For traditionally-delivered courses during traditional long semesters, meet not less than one (1) hour each week during a traditional long semester, approximately sixteen (16) weeks. This includes not less than one (1) hour each week for approximately fifteen (15) weeks of direct faculty instruction, a minimum of two (2) hours out-of-class student work each week for each credit hour; plus additional contact hours for a final examination or final experience.
2. Face-to-face courses that are offered in less than a sixteen (16) week semester will consist of the same number of class contact hours as outlined in item 1 and shall have the same learner outcomes and quality of instruction as regular length semester courses.
3. At least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in item 1 above is required for other academic activities including laboratory courses, internships, clinical, field work, studio work, and other academic work that lead to the award of credit.
4. Online, hybrid and other nontraditional modes of delivery, may

not meet the contact hours assigned above. In such instances, the semester credit hour is based upon the learning outcomes and estimated contact hours required to successfully meet those outcomes. Faculty will review these courses to ensure that the learning outcomes and quality of instruction is equivalent to courses offered in a traditional manner.

5. In determining the amount of coursework to achieve learning competencies and outcomes, the college will take into account and consider alternative delivery methods, measurements of student work, academic calendars, disciplines, and degree levels.
6. These definitions and this policy pertain to all courses offered by the College regardless of location or mode of delivery.