

SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	INSTRUCTIONAL CREDIT HOURS FOR CURRICULUM COURSES	Policy 5.02.08
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Academic credit is a measurement of engaged learning time of a typical student in traditional, online/web-centered, hybrid, web-supported, hyflex, laboratory, clinical, studio, experiential, and work based settings.

All College credit courses are selected and offered from the Combined Course Library (CCL) of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). The College may propose new course additions to the CCL pursuant to application procedures established by the NCCCS. Students successfully completing curriculum courses will be awarded credit hours as specified for each course in the CCL.

Credit hours for approved and proposed CCL courses are determined and awarded using the following procedures as established by the State Board of Community Colleges Code:

1. Credit of one (1) semester hour is awarded for each sixteen (16) hours of "class work." Class work is lecture and other classroom instruction. Class work is under the supervision of an instructor. It is the expectation that assignments and course activities are developed so that at least two (2) hours of out of class student work occurs for each hour of class work.
2. Credit of one semester hour is awarded for each thirty two (32) hours of "experiential laboratory work." Experiential laboratory work means instruction given to a student by an instructor to increase the student's knowledge and skills without immediate student application.
3. Credit of one semester hour is awarded for each forty eight (48) hours of "faculty directed laboratory work." Faculty directed laboratory involves structured and coordinated demonstration by an instructor with immediate student application.
4. Credit of one semester hour is awarded for each forty eight (48) hours of "clinical practice." Clinical practice is a structured, faculty-directed learning experience in a health sciences program which develops job proficiency. Clinical practice requires significant preparation, coordination, and scheduling by the faculty and is under the supervision of an instructor or preceptor who is qualified for the particular program.
5. Credit of one (1) semester hour is awarded for each one hundred sixty (160) hours of "work experience" such as cooperative education, practicums, and internships. Work experience involves the development of job skills by providing the student with employment that is directly related to, and coordinated with, the educational program. Student activity in work experience is planned and coordinated by a College representative, and the employer is responsible for the control and supervision of the student on the job.

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6. Academic deans will verify that all credit courses meet the minimum number of hours required in these procedures to award the associated course credit. Course meeting time and related academic credit is also subject to program audit verification from the NCCCS.

Adopted: April 2012

Revised: January 27, 2015
March 2022