



Credit Hour Definition

Approved by Faculty Assembly April 18, 2024

A credit hour at Blackburn College is defined as “an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester
- Or at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”

Credit Hour Assignment

15-Week Courses			
Course Credit Hour	Total Course Contact Hours	Weekly Contact Hours	Weekly hours of expected student work apart from instruction time
1	15	1	2
2	30	2	4
3	45	3	6
4	60	4	8

8-Week Courses

Course Credit Hour	Total Course Contact Hours	Weekly Contact Hours	Weekly hours of expected student work apart from instruction time
1	15	2	4
2	30	4	8
3	45	6	12
4	60	8	16

This contact hour/student work expectations calculator may not apply to independent study, service learning, internship, and other similar credits.

Contact Hours based on 50 min classroom period (1 contact hour = 50 minutes)

Based on academic calendar definition of 15-week full term including Double Instruction Periods

An equivalent amount of work is required in courses and academic activities where direct instruction is not the primary mode of learning, such as online and hybrid courses, laboratory work, independent study, internships, practica, studio work, etc. Credits will be awarded on the basis of documented learning objectives, expected learning outcomes, and student workload expectations within a specified period of academically engaged time.

Credit hours assigned to a course delivered online must equal the number of credit hours for the same course delivered face-to-face. An online course credit hour requires 3 hours of student work for each week and this work can include reading, research, online discussion and instruction, assigned group activities and preparation of papers or presentations.