



Semester Credit Hour # 1360.035

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
May 11, 1998	March 7, 2025	Office of the Registrar

POLICY STATEMENT

The university defines the semester credit hour to ensure compliance with minimum credit hour requirements for awarding baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs as stipulated by Federal Regulation (34 CFR Part 600), Florida Statute 1007.25, Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.017, and institutional accreditation standards set forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

A credit hour is 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:

1. 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 the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in item 1 above for the academic activities established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

When appropriate, a degree may require students to complete courses with zero earned hours of academic credit. Such a practice is appropriate when students are required to complete experiential learning (e.g., internships) or individualized study (e.g., directed study, independent study); attend or present at professional or academic meetings, seminars or performances; complete orientation sessions, complete capstone examinations or certifications; or similar examples.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all credit courses and programs offered at the University.

REASON FOR POLICY

To provide the University's definition of a semester credit hour and demonstrate compliance with Federal Regulation (34 CFR Part 600), Florida Statute 1007.25, Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.017, and SACSCOC Standards 9.2 and 10.7.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
None	None

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Office of the Registrar maintains courses and scheduling, which conform to the credit hour requirements for classes and curriculum.

Faculty members are responsible for submitting new course and course change proposals that define the number of credit hours awarded. The University Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing new course and course change proposals, including those relating to zero credit requirements, and recommending approval to the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate approves (or rejects) all curriculum proposals through curricular review processes.

RELATED RESOURCES

[Federal Regulation \(34 CFR Part 600\)](#)

[Florida Statute 1007.25](#)

[Florida Board of Governors Regulation 6.017](#)

[Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Standards 9.2 and 10.7](#)

[Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Credit Hours policy statement](#)

[FIU Policy 340.315 Undergraduate Curriculum Changes](#)

[FIU Policy 380.0442 Graduate Administrative Organization](#)

CONTACTS

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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: May 11, 1998

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): June 8, 2015; November 13, 2020, March 7, 2025.