

## **WHEELING UNIVERSITY**

### **Credit Hour Policy**

Wheeling University follows federal compliance regulations that require all accredited institutions to comply with the federal definition of the credit hour.

Federal Law: A credit hour is assumed to be a 50-minute (not 60-minute) period.

WU's credit hour policy conforms with the federal law in that in class sessions of 50 minutes occur on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday class sessions and the equivalent for Tuesday and Thursday classes at 75-minute sessions. In courses, such as those offered online, in which "seat time" does not apply, a credit hour may be measured by an equivalent amount of work, as demonstrated by student achievement.

Credit hour calculations (below) use the grand total of WU credit hour (50 minute) periods, add the accompanying out-of-class work, and then express total student work in normal "hours" (60 minutes). Adherence to WU's credit hour policy will be reviewed and audited periodically by WU's VPAA, Registrar, and faculty to ensure that credit hour assignments are accurate and reliable.

#### Definition of a Credit Hour:

For all WU degree programs and courses bearing academic credit, the "credit hour" is defined as "the 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:

1) one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time;

OR

2) 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, practicums, service learning, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

#### Application of Credit Hour Policy:

This credit hour policy applies to all courses at all levels (graduate, professional, and undergraduate) that award academic credit (i.e. any course that appears on an official transcript issued by the University) regardless of the mode of delivery including, but not limited to, self-paced, online, hybrid, lecture, seminar, laboratory, and credit by portfolio.

#### Credit Hour Calculations (per semester):

Example: a 1-unit course equates to 50 in-class minutes X (times) 15 semester weeks = (equals) 750 in-class minutes