

	FGCU POLICY 2.013	Responsible Unit: Academic and Curriculum Support
	Credit Hour	

A. POLICY STATEMENT

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) has policies and procedures in place to ensure that curricular offerings are of the highest quality and comply with relevant federal, state, and regional accreditation guidelines.

B. REASON FOR POLICY

This Policy provides a framework for compliance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) *The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, Principle 10.7, adopted December 2017, and SACSCOC Policy Statement on Credit Hours, approved June 2011 and edited August 2018.

This Policy is based on the federal definition of Credit Hour as found in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34: Education 600.2.

The application of this Policy is based on commonly accepted practice in higher education and language in Florida Administrative Code 6A-14.030(1)(a)(1) Postsecondary Instructional Unit Definitions and Awards in Florida College System Institutions amended June 20, 2017 (formerly 6A-10.033 Post Secondary Instructional Unit Definitions) that includes the following statement:

One (1) college credit is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of fifteen (15) fifty-minute periods of classroom instruction; with credits for such activities as laboratory instruction, internships, and clinical experience determined by the institution based on the proportion of direct instruction to the laboratory exercise, internship hours, or clinical practice hours.

C. APPLICABILITY AND/OR ACCOUNTABILITY

This Policy is applicable to all units of the University that develop and offer credit-bearing courses.

D. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Credit Hour: 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 (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two (2) hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen (15) weeks for one (1) 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 outlined in item “1.” above for other academic activities including laboratory work, internships, practica, field work, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of Credit Hours.

E. PROCEDURES

Faculty develop syllabi for courses in accordance with the most recent *Guidelines for Course Syllabus* approved by the FGCU Faculty Senate and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and any additional guidelines provided by the department/school and college. Consistent with this Policy, the syllabus must document in-class instruction, out-of-class assignments, and other formal course activity that contributes to the determination of appropriate credit for the course. For most undergraduate and graduate courses delivered face-to-face in a traditional 15-week format, one (1) semester Credit Hour represents approximately fifty (50) minutes of faculty-student contact per week plus an additional two (2) hours of out-of-class student work per week.

Authority

BOG Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties

History

New 08/18/14; Format Changed 09/10/19; Amended 07/09/20

APPROVED

*s/Michael V. Martin
Michael V. Martin, President

July 9, 2020
Date