

Policy Statement:

Finlandia University uses the Federal definition of a credit hour to determine its credit hour assignment.

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 not less than:

1. One hour² of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of student work outside of the class weekly for approximately 15 weeks plus 2 hours during final exam week for one semester, or the equivalent amount of work over a specified 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, online or hybrid courses, internships, clinical practicals, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

²A class hour at Finlandia University is typically 50 minutes to allow students and faculty time to transition between classes and buildings.

Examples (not inclusive):

3-credit English course = 9 hours of work per week

- 3 hours of classroom meetings per week for 15 weeks, plus 2 additional hours during final exam week
- 6 hours of homework, or student work outside of class, per week

6-credit Nursing course with 3 credits designated for classroom and 3 credits designated for clinical = 18 hours of work minimum per week (amount will vary by clinical assignment)

- 3 hours of classroom meetings per week for 15 weeks, plus 2 additional hours during final exam week
- 6 hours of homework, or student work outside of class, per week
- 9 hours of clinical practice per week, plus additional preparation time and time for skills practice determined by the course outcomes

PTA courses are arranged to meet the time requirements and program outcomes, however the PTA courses are scheduled over 11 weeks in the fall semester and 13 weeks in the spring semester to allow for the clinical practicals scheduled at the end of each semester and into the PTA summer session.

Credit Hour Definition

Approved by Academic Council 12-3-14 (Discussed with full faculty Dec 2, 2014, prior to final approval)