



Credit Hour Policy

Mount Vernon Nazarene University has adopted a basic semester calendar and awards credits for student learning experiences and outcomes in the semester hour unit. The University defines one semester hour as a reasonable approximation of the student learning that can be accomplished in 39-42 hours within the timeframe of the course. Commonly it is understood that for each hour of faculty/student contact in a face-to-face instructional environment, the student will be engaged in at least two hours of independent work outside the classroom. This is a minimum standard to insure that the term "semester hour credit" has qualitative and quantitative meaning in documenting student learning. Faculty members are required to communicate these expectations to students through course syllabi.

(This policy recognizes that traditional employs a 15-week calendar with 50-minute class sessions, while MVNU's basic calendar is built on a 60-minute class period involving approximately a 13½-week calendar.)

When instructional modalities (e.g., accelerated face-to-face, clinical practica, directed studies, field observations, independent studies, internships, laboratory work, online courses, etc.) deviate from the traditional face-to-face faculty/student mode of interaction, the relative amount of independent student work necessary to achieve equivalent learning outcomes will be defined by programs and communicated in course syllabi, so that reduced faculty/student contact will be accommodated through additional independent student work. The necessary accommodations and equivalencies will be monitored, evaluated, and adjusted to insure equivalent student learning outcomes across learning experiences and instructional modalities.

The policy and term definition provide for flexibility across the various learning experience formats and instructional modalities. The standard identified above is a minimum expectation; faculty members are free to establish higher standards per credit hour.