

Attachment B
Semester Hour Calculations for Various Course Types (USDE¹)
(Source: MSCHE Degrees and Credits Guidelines dated June 26, 2009)

The actual amount of academic work that goes into a single semester credit hour is often calculated as follows: (Source: USNEI²)

- One lecture (taught) or seminar (discussion) credit hour represents 1 hour per week of scheduled class/seminar time and 2 hours of student preparation time. Most lecture and seminar courses are awarded 3 credit hours. Over an entire semester, this formula represents at least 45 hours of class time and 90 hours of student preparation.
- One laboratory credit hour represents 1 hour per week of lecture or discussion time plus 1-2 hours per week of scheduled supervised or independent laboratory work, and 2 hours of student preparation time. Most laboratory courses are awarded up to 4 credit hours. This calculation represents at least 45 hours of class time, between 45 and 90 hours of laboratory time, and 90 hours of student preparation per semester.
- One practice credit hour (supervised clinical rounds, visual or performing art studio, supervised student teaching, field work, etc.) represents 3-4 hours per week of supervised and /or independent practice. This in turn represents between 45 and 60 hours of work per semester. Blocks of 3 practice credit hours, which equate to a studio or practice course, represent between 135 and 180 total hours of academic work per semester.
- One independent study (thesis or dissertation research) hour is calculated similarly to practice credit hours.
- Internship or apprenticeship credit hours are determined by negotiation between the supervising faculty and the work supervisor at the cooperating site, both of whom must judge and certify different aspects of the student's work. The credit formula is similar to that for practice credit.

Information regarding semester hour requirements and how to meet them in blended or online courses and programs is forthcoming.

The table below depicts minimum semester hour regulations for various course types; i.e., the contact hours with accompanying supplementary assignments which are necessary to attain the required total semester hours.

Course Format	Minimum Contact Hours	Supplementary Assignments	Total Semester Hours
3-credit Face-to-Face Lecture	45	90	135
4-credit Face-to-Face			
- Lecture	45	90	180-225
- Lab	45-90		
3-credit Clinical, studio, student teaching, or field work ^A	135-180	n/a	135-180

Notes:

^A There may be over-riding requirements for certain certificates in various professions.

¹ USDE – United States Department of Education

² USNEI – United States Network for Education Information