



CREDIT-HOUR POLICY

At Fisk University, a semester credit hour is normally granted for satisfactory completion of one 50-minute session of classroom instruction per week for a semester of not fewer than fifteen weeks.¹ In addition, the student is expected to expend at least three hours of outside-the-classroom study and preparation for each period of 50 minutes required for completion of the course. This basic measure of contact and preparation hours may be adjusted proportionately to reflect modified academic calendars and formats of study.

This credit hour policy applies to all courses at all levels (graduate, professional, and undergraduate) and to all programs that award academic credit (i.e., any course that appears on an official transcript issued by the University) – regardless of the mode of delivery and including, but not limited to, self-paced, online, hybrid, lecture, seminar, and laboratory courses. The University's Academic Affairs Division is responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets the requirements outlined in this policy.

The expectation of contact time inside the classroom and student effort outside the classroom is the same in all formats of a course. Accordingly, courses that have less structured classroom schedules, such as research seminars, independent studies, practica, studio work, and any other academic work leading to the awarding of credit hours, should state clearly the workload expectations that meet the standards set forth above. (Students who participate in paid internships are also eligible to receive academic credit for their internship, subject to the same rules of the minimum total number of contact and preparation hours.)

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¹ This requirement of at least fifteen 50-minute sessions to equate to one credit hour satisfies the criteria stated in the Federal definition of a credit hour. Moreover, this policy satisfies the SACSCOC requirement.