

Credit Hour Policy

Definition of Credit Hour

Eckerd Connects | Academy (ECA) uses the Carnegie unit to ensure that students receive a consistent amount of instructional time and engagement for each course credit they earn. This approach supports educational standards at ECA and ensures that students meet the necessary requirements for graduation.

- **One Credit Hour:** Involves at least 120 hours of student academic engagement and preparation, including direct instruction videos, applied learning practices, lessons with embedded activities, projects, assignments, journal activities, quizzes, unit tests, and comprehensive exams.
- **Half Credit Hour:** Involves at least 60 hours of student academic engagement and preparation.

Academic Engagement and Preparation

Academic Engagement: Includes direct instruction videos, applied learning practices, lessons with embedded activities, projects, assignments, journal activities, quizzes, unit tests, and comprehensive exams.

Preparation: Includes studying, completing homework, and preparing for assessments.

Credit Hour Calculation

Each one-credit course at ECA provides students with a combination of academic engagement and preparation activities totaling at least 120 hours. Each half-credit course provides students with the same combination of activities totaling at least 60 hours. This ensures students achieve the level of competency defined by institutionally established course/program outcomes.

Documenting Credit Hours

ECA demonstrates that each course and program require the appropriate amount of work needed for students to achieve the level of competency defined by institutionally established course/program outcomes. ECA measures and documents the amount of time it takes the average student to achieve learning outcomes and specifies the academic engagement and preparation time. All student work is documented in the course materials and syllabi, including a reasonable approximation of time required for students to complete the assignments. Evaluation of student work is identified as a grading criterion and weighted appropriately in the determination of a final course grade.

Process for Measuring and Documenting Time

ECA measures and documents the amount of time it takes the average student to achieve learning outcomes using the following methods:

1. Edgenuity Learning Management System (LMS): This platform estimates and tracks student time spent on coursework, providing data to verify that students meet the required credit hours.
2. Credit Hour Evaluation Charts: ECA completes a credit hour evaluation chart for each course, ensuring that each course provides students with sufficient content to achieve the course and program outcomes.

Verification and Documentation

ECA verifies and documents that appropriate academic units of measurement are assigned based on the level of educational offering. This is achieved by:

Course Design and Review:

All courses are reviewed to ensure they meet the academic engagement and preparation criteria.

The Curriculum Development Team regularly assesses courses to maintain alignment with the defined credit hour policy.

Teacher Training:

Teachers receive training on the credit hour policy to ensure they understand the expectations for academic engagement and preparation.

Student Tracking:

The Edgenuity LMS tracks student engagement and time spent on coursework, providing data to verify that students meet the required credit hours.

Assessment of Student Learning:

Courses include formative and summative assessments to measure student learning outcomes, ensuring that students achieve the intended learning outcomes within the defined credit hour framework.

By adhering to this credit hour policy, Eckerd Connects | Academy maintains rigorous academic standards and ensures that students receive a high-quality education that meets accreditation requirements.