

Definition of a Credit Hour

King's College follows the Federal Definition of the Credit Hour to determine credit hours awarded for all courses and programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. The Federal Definition of the Credit Hour is as follows:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-classroom student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten or twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Standard Courses

At King's College, a credit hour is an amount of work represented in learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement. One credit hour is constituted by a minimum of three class work hours; where a class hour is defined as 50 minutes. Generally, this includes one hour of direct instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week during the fifteen week semester.

Laboratory Courses

One semester credit hour is awarded for the equivalent of fifteen periods of lab activity consisting of a minimum of 100 minutes in duration.

Accelerated Courses

Accelerated course (with length less than the traditional 15 week semester) must meet the minimum contact hour requirements of standard courses.

Online Courses

For totally online courses that do not utilize direct instruction as the primary delivery method an equivalent amount of work (minimum of three hours per week for a semester) must be represented for a credit hour. These hours may consist of the following activities:

- Interactive tutorials
- Computer-assisted instruction
- Attending a virtual study group assigned by the instructor
- Contributing to an academic online discussion
- Engaging in contact with the faculty member and class peers related to the academic subject of the course

- Time for assignments
- Taking an exam
- Field-based experiences

The course syllabi must provide evidence that the course meets the minimum semester credit hour requirement for the credit awarded.

Hybrid Courses

When courses are offered in a blended format with 1 or more required face-to-face class sessions and with more than 1 or more required online sessions, the minimum semester credit hour requirement for the credit awarded must be met. The course syllabi must provide evidence that the course meets the minimum semester credit hour requirement for the credit awarded.

Clinical Experiences

Credit for clinical experiences (Education, Physician Assistant, Athletic Training Education Program, etc.) is generally determined by recommendations of specific accrediting agencies. When credit hours are provided for a clinical experience course, the minimum amount of time must be equivalent to the standard three hours per week per credit hour for a fifteen week semester.

Independent Studies

Students completing an independent study must conform to the standard minimum of three hours of student work per credit hour per week per semester.

The Curriculum & Teaching Committee of Faculty Council and the Office of Academic Affairs collaborate to review and approve credit hours awarded for a new course or major revisions of an existing course. Academic departments are responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that meets the requirements outlined in this policy.