

Butler University Unit of Instruction—the Semester Credit Hour

Semester Credit Hour is the unit used to measure course work. The number of semester credit hours assigned to a course reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, scheduled in-class time, additional formal meeting times, and the amount of ~~of~~ preparatory work expected for the class.

A Semester Credit hour is generally equivalent to one lecture per week or between two to four hours of laboratory work per week if the laboratory is a ~~stand~~ ~~alone~~ class that is not associated with a lecture. Students are expected to work an average of two hours outside of class for every hour spent in the classroom for a ~~group~~ ~~based~~, face-to-face lecture class. At Butler University, it is typical for the Semester Credit hours associated with a class to ~~include~~ both the required lecture and the laboratory class times.

The academic year at Butler consists of two semesters approximately 14 weeks in length and two seven-week summer sessions. Most degree programs require an average of ~~15~~ semester hours each ~~semester~~ for eight semesters.

The Federal definition states that "A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that ~~reasonably~~ approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks;
2. Or at least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph ~~(1)~~ definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading toward the awarding of credit hours." 34CFR 600.2 (11/1/2010)

Butler University Equivalencies of the Credit Hour

The institutionally established equivalencies to the Federal definition of the ~~credit~~ ~~hour~~ at Butler University are below. These standards apply to both undergraduate and graduate courses.

1. For each semester hour of credit, classes that meet in ~~to face~~ format must include one 50-minute period with the instructor and two hours of outside of class work (e.g. class preparation, homework, projects, ~~etc.~~) 14 weeks.
 - x 1 credit hour = 50 minutes contact + 120 minutes outside classroom work over 14 weeks for a total of 230 minutes of student effort.
 - x Classes meeting for less than 14 weeks must adjust their weekly instructor contact hours, and outside classroom work accordingly.
2. Classes that do not have the required ~~to face~~ contact time (for example, hybrid or online courses) meet the credit hour standard if they meet one of the following: criteria
 - x The course covers the same material in the same depth as a ~~to face~~ version of the same course.

- x The course ~~has~~ been evaluated by the department and college for content and rigor, and the department and college have approved ~~the~~ semester hours credit to be awarded.
3. Any off-cycle course must be equivalent in both contact and outside work totals as a