

Credit Hours and Credit Hour Transfers

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advising/courses/degrees/index.html#creditlimittext>

WVU courses offered for credit are based on semester hours. Semesters are fifteen weeks long plus one week for final exams. A single credit hour is equivalent to fifty minutes of guided instruction within the classroom. An hour of preparation, or related activity outside of the classroom, is equivalent to sixty minutes.

Face-to-Face Classroom Learning

One credit hour is equivalent to one hour of guided instruction (fifty minute class) and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time such as during the summer sessions, which may vary in duration.

Online Classroom Learning

One credit hour of online learning is equivalent to fifteen hours of direct instruction and thirty hours of student work. Direct instruction can occur via computer-assisted (modules), multi-media interaction, discussions, and/or completion of exams/quizzes/assessments as documented in the course syllabus and approved to meet best practices in online learning. Student work includes activities like readings and supplemental home work. Students must fulfill these hours to complete the course requirements as set forth by the course instructor. Online courses developed from existing face-to-face instruction adhere to the defined learning outcomes and assessments of the original face-to-face format for the course.

Experiential Learning

In experiential learning, including opportunities representing laboratory/lecture courses, undergraduate research (with or without laboratory), professional development internships, and service learning, a total of three hours of classroom and preparation time per week over a period of fifteen weeks for one credit hour or the equivalent amount of work over a shorter period of time is required.

Study Abroad

One credit hour is equivalent to fifteen hours of guided instruction and thirty hours of cultural, linguistic or other types of engagements as described by the syllabus and approved by the faculty, department Chair, Dean, and Associate Provost. Exceptions to this general rule would need to be justified and approved on an individual basis.

Variable Credit Offerings

Variable credit courses often represent student experiences that range in contact hours based on the focus and discipline of the experience. Practicums (teaching and research), field experience, undergraduate and graduate research and laboratory rotations and credit, and independent studies offer a range of contact. One credit hour is equivalent to fifteen contact hours of guided instruction (e.g., student progress meetings, assessment) and thirty hours of

student work to complete the requirements set forth by the advisor or course instructor (e.g., team meetings, review sessions, thesis/dissertation preparation) over a fifteen week period.

Course Credit Limitations

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/index.html#creditlimitstext>

Credit toward a graduate degree may be obtained only for courses listed in the graduate catalog and numbered 400–799. No more than forty percent of course credits counted toward any graduate degree may be at the 400-level. No residence credit is allowed for special field assignments or other work taken off the WVU campus without prior approval. Graduate credit is obtained only for courses in which the grade earned is A, B, C, P or S. Courses taken as audits or courses in which the grade earned is D, F, or U may not count toward a graduate degree.

Credit-Hour Transfers

[http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#Previous Courses and Credits](http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/degree_regulations/#Previous_Courses_and_Credits)

Graduate programs may accept up to twelve credits from another institution as transfer graduate credit by requesting that the Office of the Registrar post the transfer credits to the student's record. Individual graduate units may have lower limits. Non-degree graduate students are not permitted to transfer credit to WVU from another institution.

Up to twelve credits of graduate course work completed at WVU through the senior petition process (see the Undergraduate Catalog) may be applied to graduate program requirements. Individual graduate units may allow a smaller maximum number of previously earned credit hours to be applied to their program as a general rule and may determine which courses and credits may or may not be applied to their program by an individual student.