



BLESSING-RIEMAN
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

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Owner Reta Richmond:
Executive Assistant-
Brcn
Area Academic Committee
References Board reviewed on 5/21/26.

Definition of Credit Hour

PURPOSE

To define *credit hours* and explain the calculated ratios for theory, clinical, and simulation for all programs.

POLICY

The Federal definition for a credit hour is used for all College programs/courses.

Credit Hour- 1 hour of didactic instruction and a minimum of 2 hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for 1 semester hour of credit.

PROCEDURE

Theory

Course faculty for all programs determine the assignments, readings, projects, and tests necessary to provide equivalent coursework for each credit hour.

Clinical/Lab

Clinical/lab hours are calculated according to the program of study:

Nursing

Nursing clinical hours are calculated using:

- A 1:4 ratio for sophomore level clinical/lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 4 clinical hours.
- A 1:3 ratio for junior level, senior level, and RN-BSN clinical/lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 clinical hours.

Respiratory

Respiratory care clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:6 ratio with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 clinical hours.
- A 1:3 ratio with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 externship clinical hours .
- A 1:3 ratio with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 lab hours.

Radiologic Science

Radiologic Science clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:6 ratio for all radiography clinicals with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 clinical hours.
- A 1:4 ratio for radiography labs with 1 credit hour being equal to 4 lab hours.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Diagnostic Medical Sonography clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:4 ratio for all sonography clinicals with 1 credit hour being equal to 4 clinical hours.
- A 1:6 ratio for all sonography labs with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 lab hours.

Medical Laboratory Science

Medical Laboratory clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:5 ratio for clinical with 1 credit hour being equal to 5 clinical hours.
- A 1:2 ratio for lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 2 lab hours.

Simulation

Simulation in Theory

When incorporating simulation time into theory, the simulation hour to theory hour ratio is 1:1.

Example: 2 simulation hours are equal to 2 hours of seat time in theory.

Simulation in Clinical

When incorporating simulation time into the clinical schedule, the simulation hour to clinical hour ratio is 1:2 with 1 simulation hour being equal to 2 clinical hours.

Example: 3 simulation hours are equal to 6 clinical hours.

Asynchronous Online Courses

Asynchronous online courses follow the College's definition of a credit hour.

For all courses, in-person and asynchronous online, students are expected to have a minimum of 2 hours per 1 credit of out of classroom learning time per week.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Approval by College Senate	Reta Richmond: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT-BRCN	07/2026
Approval by Academic Chair	Katie Sidwell: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	05/2026
Approval by Academic Chair	Amanda Feeney: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR-RADIOLOGY	04/2026