

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/25/14
Syllabus statements on credit hours and course expectations

The following motion regarding syllabus statements on credit hours and course expectations comes recommended and approved by Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Rationale

The credit hour is a standard that is still used as the universal measure of academic rigor by universities and accrediting bodies, including the accrediting bodies that oversee Binghamton University. For years, many of Binghamton University's courses have been assigned 4 academic credits to recognize the academic demands placed upon students in meeting the requirements for these courses, but the specific credit-hour standards are not broadly understood. In our ongoing effort to maintain the highest academic standards, to meet our regulatory obligations, and to help students understand the typical demands of a 4-credit course, we recommend that the appropriate

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/25/14
Syllabus statements on credit hours and course expectations
Page 2

United States Department of Education Credit Hour Definition

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div8&node=34:3.1.3.1.1.1.23.2>

The U.S. Department of Education defines a credit hour as:

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 for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to 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) of this definition 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.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Policy <http://www.msche.org/documents/CreditHourPolicyRev112012.pdf>

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/25/14
Syllabus statements on credit hours and course expectations
Page 3

Syllabus Statements

For Fall/Spring semester-long courses that meet in the standard 3-day or 2-day meeting patterns:

This course is a 4-credit course, which means that in addition to the scheduled meeting times, students are expected to do at least 9.5 hours of course-related work outside of class each week during the semester. This includes time spent completing assigned readings, participating in lab sessions, studying for tests and examinations, preparing written assignments, and other course-related tasks.

For Fall/Spring semester-long courses with non-standard meeting times (i.e. not the standard 3-day or 2-day meeting patterns):

This course is a 4-credit course, which means that students are expected to do at least 12.5 hours of course-related work or activity each week during the semester. This includes scheduled class meeting times as well as time spent completing assigned readings, studying for tests and examinations, participating in lab sessions, preparing written assignments, and other course-related tasks.

For Summer session face-to-face courses:

This course is a 4-credit course, which means that in addition to the scheduled meeting times, students are expected to do at least 25 hours of course-related work each week of the 5-week Summer session. This includes work done completing assigned readings, participating in lab sessions, studying for tests and examinations, preparing written assignments, and other course /P ~~MD 19~~BDC