

6Hx19-3.36 Definitions of Credit Hours

The purpose of this Board Rule is to establish Board policy regarding its definitions of credit hour(s).

The President shall ensure that the College adheres to the following definitions of credit hour(s) in accordance with Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 6A-14.030, *Postsecondary Credit Definitions*.

The following definitions of credit hour(s) apply to courses offered at Pasco-Hernando State College.

(1) Credit. Credit is a unit of measure assigned to courses or course equivalent learning. Credit is awarded if the learning activity it represents is part of, or preparatory for, an organized and specified program leading to a postsecondary certificate or degree. Credit is a device which indicates to the learner, to educational institutions, to employers, and to others how much of the program the learner has completed. The credit awarded may be independent of where the learning occurs. If a learning activity does not meet these requirements, credit shall not be awarded. The only types of postsecondary credit authorized are:

(a) College Credit. College credit is the type of credit assigned by Florida College System institutions to courses or course equivalent learning that is part of an organized and specified program leading to a baccalaureate, associate degree, certificate, or applied technology diploma. One (1) college credit is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of fifteen (15) fifty-minute periods of classroom instruction; with credits for such things as laboratory instruction, internships, and clinical experience determined by the institution based on the proportion of direct instruction to the laboratory exercise, internship hours, or clinical practice hours.

i. Lower division college credit. Lower division college credit is assigned to college credit courses offered to freshman and sophomores (1,000 and 2,000 level courses).

ii. Upper division college credit. Upper division college credit is assigned to college credit courses offered to juniors and seniors (3,000 and 4,000 level courses).

(b) Clock Hour. A clock hour is the unit of credit assigned to courses or course equivalent learning that is part of an organized and specified program leading to an Applied Technology Diploma or a Career and Technical Certificate. It applies to postsecondary adult career courses. One (1) clock hour credit is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of thirty (30) hours of instruction. When determining the number of credit hours in an educational program with regard to Title IV, Higher Education Act programs, a semester hour must include at least 37.5 clock hours of instruction.

(c) Developmental Education Credit.

1. College Developmental credit. College developmental education credit is the type of credit assigned to Florida College System institutions to courses that provide degree seeking students who wish to enroll in college credit courses with additional academic preparation determined to be needed pursuant to Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C . One (1) developmental education credit is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of fifteen (15) fifty-minute periods of classroom instruction.

2. Career Preparatory Credit. Career preparatory credit is the type of preparatory credit assigned to courses that provide students who wish to enroll in career credit courses with additional academic preparation. One (1) career preparatory credit is based on the learning expected from the equivalent of fifteen (15) fifty-minute periods of classroom instruction, with credit for such things as laboratory instruction and individualized study determined by the institution based on the proportion of direct instruction to the laboratory exercise or individualized program.

(2) Noncredit. Noncredit is a term indication that credit, as defined herein, is not awarded. It applies to the instructional classifications of noncredit continuing education, adult general education, citizenship, recreational, community education, and community instructional services. The unit of measure is hours of instruction.

(3) Institutional Credit. Institutional credit is postsecondary credit that is competency-based. Institutional credit is not guaranteed to automatically transfer. The college shall provide institutional credit for students who successfully complete Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) modules for competency-based teacher certification. Institutional credit as applied to the collaborative model for competency-based teacher certification is intended only as a framework for establishing program length and assessing tuition and fees. It does not imply an award of traditional “college credit” for any module.

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Administratively Reviewed – No Recommended Changes – 7/9/25

Legal Authority:

General Authority: Florida Statutes: 1001.64; 1001.65;

Other References: Florida Administrative Code: 6A-10.030

Law Implemented: Florida Statutes: 1001.64(1)(2)(4)(6)(7)(8)(43)(44);
1004.65(1)(16); 1004.93, 1007.22, 1007.24, 1007.25, 1008.30,
1008.345

Proposer: Eric Hall, President