

# Silver Lake College Credit Hour Policy

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## **FEDERAL DEFINITION OF CREDIT HOUR (34 CFR 600.2)**

Credit hour:

Except as provided in 34 CFR 668.8(k) and (l), 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 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.

### **Standard Courses – 15 week semester**

For lecture courses, Silver Lake College follows the federal definition:

- One semester hour of credit equals one hour of class instruction and a minimum of two hours of student work outside of class per week for a 15 week semester.

For hybrid courses in which 25% or more of the course, but less than 75%, is offered through distance format:

- One semester hour of credit equals three hours of student engagement time per week through a combination of instruction and student preparation outside of class. Instruction is provided through traditional teaching methods, as well as web-based interaction. Class meeting times may vary from once or twice a semester to weekly sessions.

For 100% distance formatted courses:

- One semester hour of credit equals three hours of student engagement time per week through a combination of instruction and student preparation outside of class. Instruction is provided through a combination of synchronous or asynchronous web-based interaction, discussion threads, email, and other instructional methods.

For thesis and independent study courses:

- Thesis and independent study courses are designed to provide the student with individualized instruction to pursue learning outcomes, which are determined in consultation with a faculty member. Direct interaction with the faculty varies according to student need and may involve a combination of individualized instruction and synchronous or asynchronous interaction through web-based or comparable technology. Students are expected to complete at least three hours of student work per week for every semester hour of credit.

For guided study courses:

- Are regular courses, not available in the semester and that the student has not been able to schedule in the regular sequence. Scope, assignments, and requirements for a guided study course are the same as for the regular course with the same course number, title, and

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description. Faculty interaction and student work will be equivalent to at least three hours per credit hour per week.

## **Compressed Course Schedule**

Silver Lake College uses compressed course schedules in which the course is offered for a shorter period of time than the standard 15 week schedule. For compressed courses, one semester hour of credit equals one hour of synchronous or asynchronous class instruction and at least two hours of student work outside of class.

## **Experiential and Alternative Course Formats**

Experiential and alternative course formats follow the federal definition of credit hours, however they may require more hours of structured learning than basic lecture courses. Students work directly with supervisors, preceptors, teachers, or mentors in a variety of settings.

Alternative course formats may include the following:

- Laboratory time, especially in the physical and health science disciplines
- Studio work or musical ensembles, often associated with art disciplines
- Experiential formats, such as internships, clinical practice, practicums and student teaching, service learning

## **Graduate Courses**

Delivery in graduate programs are based on the standard equivalence in undergraduate programs, however exceptions may occur as per federal guidelines.