



California University of Pennsylvania

Graduate School POLICY: Credits & Credit Load

A. Purpose & Scope

To define and describe credits and credit load for graduate students

B. Definition(s)

Credits: A unit of measure that usually represents one hour of class per week for one term or semester
Graduate: students pursuing a masters or doctorate degree or other post-baccalaureate award

C. Policy

Credit for coursework is recorded in credit hours. One credit hour represents one 50-minute class meeting each week for the 15-week semester. For laboratory courses, the ratio may differ somewhat from one discipline to another, but usually two or three hours of laboratory work each week for the 15-week semester are worth one credit hour. For courses conducted in out of classroom settings, one credit hour is equated to a minimum of two hours of student work each week for 15 weeks.

A full-time graduate student is enrolled in a credit load of nine (9) or more credits per term. Graduate students enrolled in less than nine credits are considered part-time. Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation credits are also considered to be enrolled full-time.

Only registered coursework in a given term is counted towards a student's full-time or part-time status for that term. The work that a student might need to do for an Incomplete from a previous term will not count toward a student's full-time or part-time status for the current term.

These standards apply to students in on-ground and on-line programs and courses.

D. Procedure(s):

E. Effective Date: 2012 Graduate Catalog

Updated Date: July, 17, 2015

Amended Date: October 5, 2015