

Committee on Educational Policy Credit Hour Policy

[SR 760](#) states that the value of a course in units is based on the number of hours of work per week per term on the part of a student, with each unit corresponding to approximately three hours of effort. However, SR 760 does not specify a relationship between unit value and class contact hours. UC Santa Cruz utilizes the following model for lecture courses: a five-unit course should generally have 31.50 contact hours over the course of the term — 3.15 hours a week (195 minutes) corresponding either to two 95-minute meetings or three 65-minute meetings per week. A two-unit course should typically involve 14 contact hours per term or approximately one 90-minute meeting per week. Due to scheduling challenges and the limited availability of classroom space, strong justification must be provided for lecture courses that carry other units of credit and these will be given additional attention. There is more flexibility regarding the contact hours for laboratory, studio, and field courses with "independent studies," by definition, allowing less contact time, and public colloquia may involve more. In the case of summer courses, the total student workload and contact hours must be equivalent to those during academic year terms.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy, May 21, 2014, May 4, 2016 and July 22, 2024