



Policy and Procedure

Policy Name: Allocation of Credit Hours by Program

Responsible office:	Program Deans
Approved by:	Administration
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Mount Carmel College of Nursing generally ascribes to the Carnegie definition of a semester credit hour, which stipulates that one semester credit hour be awarded for fifteen sessions of 50-minutes duration in classroom lecture-recitation each requiring two hours of outside preparation by the student.

In the interest of accurate academic measurement and cross-program comparability, the following definitions and practices apply in controlling the relationship between contact and credit hours. These definitions constitute a formalization of policy in order to ensure consistency throughout the College. Courses may be composed of any combination of elements described, such as a lecture course which also has required laboratory periods or a lecture course having an additional requirement for supervised independent study, tutorial activity and asynchronous online learning.

A semester credit hour is normally granted for satisfactory completion of one 50-minute session of classroom instruction per week for a semester of not less than sixteen weeks. This basic measure may be adjusted proportionately to reflect modified academic calendars and formats of study specific to individual programs. Semester credit hours are granted for various types of instruction as follows:

I. Lecture, seminar, quiz, discussion, recitation

A semester credit hour is an academic unit earned for fifteen 50-minute sessions of classroom instruction with a normal expectation of two hours of outside study for each class session. Typically, a three-semester credit hour course meets three 50-minute sessions per week for sixteen weeks for a total of 48 course contact hours; this basic measure may be adjusted proportionally to meet total hour requirements for the semester credit while aligning to course delivery timeframes.

II. Practice Experience / Experiential Learning

At its discretion, an institution may award credit hours for learning acquired outside the institution which is an integral part of a program of study. Experiential learning constitutes planned learning activities in nursing practice that permit students to gain competencies relevant to the profession and level of program. Credit hour to clock hour conversions are specified by program ranging from 1.5 clock-hour to 3 clock-hours per week awarded for each credit hour of supervised academic activity that provides the learning considered necessary to program study; ensuring experiences permit students' ability to achieve stated outcomes/competencies.

III. Accelerated, Term Courses or Short Sessions

Credit hours may be earned in accelerated, term courses or short sessions (summer sessions, intersessions, etc.) proportionately to those earned for the same activity during a regular term of the institution.

Allocation of Credit Hours

Traditional Undergraduate

Allocation of undergraduate credit hours is based on a 16-week semester with implementation occurring through campus-based, online and or hybrid delivery.

Theory - All courses

- 1 course credit hour = 1 theory hour per week per semester (16-week courses)
- 1 course credit hour = 2 theory hours per week per semester (8-week courses)
- Short sessions adjust weekly hours proportionately to those earned for the same activity during a regular term of the institution.

Lab - Science Courses

- 1 course credit hour = 2 lab hours per week

Lab and Clinical - Nursing Courses

- 1 course credit hour = 3 lab/clinical hours per week per semester

[Semester Courses Credit Allocation]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits allocated to theory	Instructional Hours in class per semester	Credits allocated to lab	Credits allocated to clinical	Total Instructional Hours in lab/clinical per semester
204	5	4	64	1	0	48 lab
205	6	3	48	1	2	48 lab / 96 clinical

[8-Week Term Courses Credit Allocation]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits allocated to theory	Instructional Hours in class per semester	Credits allocated to lab	Credits allocated to clinical	Total Instructional Hours in lab/clinical per semester
307	5	3	48	0.25	1.75	12 lab / 84 clinical
308	5	3	48	0.25	1.75	12 lab / 84 clinical
309	10	6	96	0.5	3.5	24 lab / 168 clinical
405	5	2.5	40	0.33	2.17	16 lab / 104 clinical
406	5	2.5	40	0.33	2.17	16 lab / 104 clinical
407	5	2.5	40	0.33	2.17	16 lab / 104 clinical
408	5	1.5	24	0.042	3.46	2 lab / 166 clinical

Accelerated Undergraduate

Allocation of accelerated undergraduate credit hours is based on a 16-week semester with implementation occurring through online and or hybrid delivery.

Theory - All courses

- 1 course credit hour = 1 theory hour per week per semester (16-week courses)
- 1 course credit hour = 2 theory hours per week per semester (8-week courses)
- Short sessions adjust weekly hours proportionately to those earned for the same activity during a regular term of the institution.

Lab and Clinical – Medical-Surgical Nursing Courses*

- 1 course credit hour = 2.625 lab/clinical hours per week per semester

Lab and Clinical – Specialty Population Nursing Courses+

- 1 course credit hour = 1.5 lab/clinical hours per week per semester

[Courses Credit Allocation – Variable Course Lengths]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits allocated to theory	Instructional Hours in class per semester	Credits allocated to lab	Credits allocated to clinical	Total Instructional Hours in lab/clinical per semester
294*	5	4	64	1	0	42 lab
295*	6	3	48	1	2	42 lab / 85 clinical
397+	5	3	48		2	0 lab / 48 clinical
398+	5	3	48		2	0 lab / 48 clinical
399*	10	6	96	0.2	3.8	12 lab / 160 clinical
495*	5	2.5	40		2.5	0 lab / 105 clinical
496*	5	2.5	40		2.5	0 lab / 105 clinical
497+	5	2.5	40	0.167	2.33	4 lab / 56 clinical
498*	5	1.5	24		3.5	0 lab / 147 clinical

Allocation of Online RN-BSN Credit Hours

Allocation of online undergraduate credit hours is based on a 16-week semester with online delivery through 6-week sessions.

General Education Courses, Nursing clinical and Non-clinical nursing courses

- 1 course credit hour = 2.66 theory hours per week per semester (for 6 week courses)

[6-week Course Credit Allocation]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits Allocated to theory	Hours in online course engagement per semester*
NURS 301	3	3	48
NURS 360	3	3	48
NURS 400	3	3	48
NURS 402	4	4	64
NURS 403	4	4	64
NURS 415	3	3	48
NURS 420	3	4	48
NURS 490	4	4	64
NURS 3533	3	3	48
HLTH 330	3	3	48
HUMN 420	3	3	64

*Includes the integration of direct and indirect practice experiences for nursing-clinical courses.

Allocation of Graduate/DNP Credit Hours

Allocation of graduate/DNP credit hours is based on a 16-week semester with implementation occurring through fully online delivery. (Campus-based immersions are required for some programs).

General Education Courses and Non-Clinical Nursing Courses

Theory - All courses

- 1 course credit hour = 1 theory hour per week per semester (16-week courses)
- 1 course credit hour = 2 theory hours per week per semester (8-week courses)
- Short sessions adjust weekly hours proportionately to those earned for the same activity during a regular term of the institution.

Lab and Clinical - Nursing Courses

- 1 course credit hour = 3 lab/clinical hours per week per semester

[Graduate Courses]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits Allocated to Theory	Hours in online course engagement per semester	Credits allocated to lab/clinical	Credits Allocated to Practice Experience
Core / Direct Core Courses and Nursing Leadership	3	3	48	0	0
NURS 580	7	5	80	2	100
NURS 581	8	4	64	4	200
NURS 582	8	4	64	4	200
NURS 583	6	3	48	3	150
NURS 584	6	3	48	3	150
NURS 585	6	2	32	4	200
NURS 590	7	4	64	3	150
NURS 591	8	3	48	5	250
NURS 592	8	3	48	5	250

[DNP Courses]

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits Allocated to Theory	Hours in online course engagement per semester	Credits allocated to lab/clinical	Credits Allocated to Practice Experience
NURS 761	4	3	48	1	50
NURS 762	3	3	48	0	
NURS 763	3	2	32	1	50
NURS 764	4	3	48	1	50
NURS 765	3	3	48	0	
NURS 766	3	2	32	1	50
NURS 767	4	3	48	1	50

Nursing Course Number	Credit Hours	Credits Allocated to Theory	Hours in online course engagement per semester	Credits allocated to lab/clinical	Credits Allocated to Practice Experience
NURS 768	3	1	16	2	100
NURS 769	2	1	16	1	50
NURS 770	1	0	0	1	50
NURS 770	1	0	0	1	50
Specializations	3	3	48	0	