

ADHE Guidelines should be considered as faculty prepare their study abroad course syllabi and program itinerary:

The credit and contact hour is defined based on the type of delivery.

Credit Hour Value

The credit hour is a unit by which an institution may measure its course work. The credit hour value for a course is determined primarily by the amount of time, the intensity of the educational experience, and the amount of outside preparation required by the student. For example, a lecture course with extensive reading or other out-of-class preparation would result in one credit for each hour per week; a laboratory experience with moderate out-of-the class preparation may equal one credit for two hours per week; a laboratory experience with little out-of-class preparation may equal one credit for three hours per week.

The following are generally accepted standards in Arkansas:

1 semester credit for each 12.5 class hours of lecture

1 semester credit for each 25 class hours of laboratory

1 semester credit for 37.5 hours of clinical, practicum, internship, shop instruction.

Under the semester system, a minimum of fifteen (15) fifty-minute class sessions(750 minutes or 12.5 hrs as indicated above), excluding labs, is required to award one semester hour of credit.

Exceptions

Credit hours **for non-traditional delivery** (on-line delivery, webinar, independent study, etc.) of courses or programs generally do not use the above lecture/laboratory/practicum formulas for credit calculation. Therefore, an institution must demonstrate that the clock or credit hours awarded are appropriate for the courses or degree programs and credentials. The institution may accomplish this by demonstrating that students completing these programs or courses have acquired equivalent levels of knowledge, skills, or competencies to those acquired in traditional formats.

The intersession courses have the contact hours set based on the ADHE guidelines. They have at least 2250 minutes in class contact time for a 3 semester hour course. There is also the out-of-class preparation (see ADHE notes above).

Internship and coop courses should have 37.5 hours per semester hour of credit.