Course/Credit Hour Definitions

Credit Hour Defined

A *credit hour* is a measure of graduate or undergraduate academic work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work for each week of instructional time for approximately 15 weeks for one semester, or an equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. A class hour at Wichita State University is typically 50 minutes.

The number of hours of credit for each course is indicated in parentheses following the course title in the academic catalog. Course descriptions include information about the breakdown of class and laboratory hours when applicable. Two hours of laboratory work usually are required for 1 hour of credit.

Course Numbering System

Courses carrying graduate credit are listed in the Graduate Catalog. Only courses numbered 500 and above can carry graduate credit and only for students admitted to the Graduate School at the time of enrollment.

Courses numbered under 500 carry undergraduate credit only and may be taken as supporting or prerequisite courses, but may not be counted toward a graduate degree and are not computed in a student's graduate grade point average. They are also assessed at the appropriate undergraduate tuition rate. Graduate students who must complete prerequisite coursework at the 500 to 700 level may, in the semester of enrollment, request the registrar's office to change their enrollment level in those prerequisite courses to undergraduate level. Once changed to undergraduate level, those courses cannot be changed back to graduate level, and cannot be used toward a graduate degree. They will not be counted in the graduate grade point average, and they will be assessed at the undergraduate tuition rate. Please be aware that changing the level of these courses to undergraduate could impact financial aid disbursement, as well as credit hours needed to maintain full time graduate enrollment. Some tuition benefits for Graduate Assistants may not be awarded for courses changed to undergraduate level credit. It is recommended that students consult with their advisor, the Financial Aid office (if receiving federal aid) or the Office of International Student Services (if an international student) before changing the level of their prerequisite coursework.

Courses numbered 500–699 are aimed primarily at juniors and seniors, but graduate students may also receive graduate credit for these courses if the student was admitted to the Graduate School prior to enrollment in the course. Some graduate programs do not allow courses numbered 500–699, which carry graduate credit, to meet degree requirements and students should be aware of such restrictions before enrolling. In such mixed classes, a discernibly higher level of performance is expected from graduate students, with the nature of this differential performance set by the professor.

Courses numbered 700–799 are structured primarily for graduate students, but upper-division undergraduate students may be admitted if they meet course prerequisites. All students in these courses are expected to perform at the level of graduate students (Graduate I students who ordinarily have not accumulated more than 30 credit hours in a graduate program). Students receive graduate credit if the student was admitted to the Graduate School prior to enrollment; undergraduate students receive undergraduate credit unless the student was preapproved to earn graduate credit for that specific course under the senior rule policy, or was preapproved for graduate credit for that specific course following the student's admission to a dual/accelerated bachelor's to master's program.

Courses numbered 700–899 are designed primarily for Graduate I students. Courses numbered 900–999 are designed primarily for Graduate II students (those who ordinarily have completed more than 30 credit hours in a graduate program).

Courses numbered 800 and above are restricted to graduate students only or undergraduate students approved for enrollment under the senior rule or dual/accelerated degree options.

In special cases, courses in areas where graduate degree programs are not currently available may carry graduate credit and apply toward a graduate degree in a related field or simply count as graduate credit for some nondegree purpose. Any of these courses applied toward an advanced degree program must have the approval of the student's advisor and the chairperson of the department involved in advance of enrollment.

Course Subject Abbreviations

The following abbreviations of academic departments and subject areas are used in references to courses offered by those departments.

AC	Applied Computing
ACCT	Accounting
AE	Aerospace Engineering
ANTH	Anthropology
APEN	Applied Engineering
ARAB	Arabic
ARTE	Art Education
ARTF	Art and Design Foundation
ARTG	Graphic Design
ARTH	Art History
ARTS	Studio Arts
ASL	American Sign Language
BADM	General Business Administration
BIOL	Biological Sciences
BLAW	Business Law
BME	Biomedical Engineering
BSAN	Business Analytics
CAS	Applied Studies
CESP	Counseling, Educational and School Psychology
CHEM	Chemistry
CHIN	Chinese
CI	Curriculum and Instruction
CIPE	Curriculum and Instruction Physical Education
CJ	Criminal Justice
CLES	Counseling, Educational Leadership, Educational and School Psychology
COMM	Communication
CS	Computer Science
CSD	Communication Sciences and Disorders
DANC	Dance
DH	Dental Hygiene

DS	Decision Sciences
ECE	Electrical and Computer Engineering
ECON	Economics
EDUC	Education
EEPS	Earth, Environmental and Physical Sciences
EL	Educational Leadership
EMBA	Executive Master of Business Administration
ENGL	English Language and Literature
ENGR	General Engineering
ENGT	Engineering Technology[1]
ENTR	Entrepreneurship
ETHS	Ethnic Studies
FA	Fine Arts — General
FIN	Finance
FREN	French
FS	Forensic Science
FYAN	First-Year Seminar ANTH
FYAP	First-Year Seminar APEN
FYAR	First-Year Seminar ART
FYBI	First-Year Seminar BIOL
FYCH	First-Year Seminar CHEM
FYCJ	First-Year Seminar CJ
FYCM	First-Year Seminar COMM
FYEC	First-Year Seminar ECON
FYED	First-Year Seminar SED
FYEN	First-Year Seminar ENGL
FYGE	First-Year Seminar GEOL
FYHN	First-Year Seminar HN
FYHP	First-Year Seminar CHP
FYHS	First-Year Seminar HIST
FYID	First-Year Seminar ID
FYIM	First-Year Seminar ISME
FYIS	First-Year Seminar ISLE
FYLA	First-Year Seminar LAS
FYMG	First-Year Seminar MGMT
FYMK	First-Year Seminar MKT
FYML	First-Year Seminar MCLL
FYMP	First-Year Seminar MSP
FYMS	First-Year Seminar MLS
FYMU	First-Year Seminar MUS
FYPF	First-Year Seminar PERF
FYPH	First-Year Seminar PHS
FYPL	First-Year Seminar PHIL
FYPS	First-Year Seminar POLS
FYSO	First-Year Seminar SOC
FYSP	First-Year Seminar SLS
FYSW	First-Year Seminar SCWK
FYWS	First-Year Seminar WOMS
GEOG	Geography
GEOL	Geology
GERM	German
GREK	Greek
HA	Health Administration
HIST	History
HLS	Homeland Security
HNRS	Honors Program
HP	Health Professions — General
HPS	Human Performance Studies
HRM	Human Resource Management
HS	Health Sciences
HSP	Hospitality
IB	International Business
ID	Innovative Design
IME	Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
ISLE	Intervention Services and Leadership in Education
ITAL	Italian
JAPN	Japanese
LASI	Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary
LATN	Latin
LEAD	Leadership
LING	Linguistics
MART	Media Arts
MATH	Mathematics
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MCLL	Modern and Classical Languages and Literature
ME	Mechanical Engineering
MGMT	Management
MILS	Military Science
MIS	Management Information Systems
MKT	Marketing
MLS	Medical Laboratory Sciences
MUSA	Applied Music
MUSC	Musicology-Composition
MUSE	Music Education
MUSP	Music Performance
NURS	Nursing
PA	Physician Associate
PADM	Public Administration
PC	Personal Computing
PHIL	Philosophy
PHS	Public Health Sciences
PHYS	Physics
POLS	Political Science
PSY	Psychology
PT	Physical Therapy
RE	Real Estate and Land Use Economics
REL	Religion
RUSS	Russian
SCWK	Social Work
SMGT	Sports Management
SOC	Sociology

SPAN	Spanish
SPED	Special Education
STAT	Statistics
TAP	Teacher Apprentice Program
THEA	Theatre
WOMS	Women's Studies
WSUA	First-Year Seminar: Liberal Arts and Sciences
WSUH	First-Year Seminar: Health Professions

[1] ENGT subject courses are in the process of changing to subject code APEN (Applied Engineering) at the time of catalog publication. Check with department for list of available courses.