**Semester Hour**

A semester hour is a unit of credit earned for attending and successfully completing a course during a given semester. A class that awards three semester hours represents 150 minutes of instructional time per week for 15 weeks, with the expectation of at least two hours of additional work or the equivalent for each hour in class. Laboratory courses may carry additional credit hours, usually at the rate of 1 credit per two-hour lab. Sixty or more semester hours (but no more than 70) are required for graduation from degree programs, depending on the curriculum in which a student is enrolled. Certificate programs require fewer semester hours.