

# Credit Hour Determination Policy

## Scope

Applies to Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (MCASOM) students when determining the value of academic credit.

## Purpose

To describe the determination of credit hours for required courses at MCASOM. ("Course" collectively represents all required curriculum components, e.g. block, longitudinal learning experience, clerkship, sub-internship, selective, elective, etc.)

## Policy

- MCASOM has established the credit hour as the measure of educational credit a student may receive for reporting or other purposes, including the academic transcript.
- In the preclinical years of the curriculum (years 1 and 2), MCASOM course credit hours include but are not limited to lectures, laboratories, small group discussions, case-based learning activities, and problem solving.
  - Most preclinical courses are primarily didactic in nature.
  - Average contact time per course per week is approximately 15-18 hours.
  - Didactic course credit hours are calculated on the formula: one credit = 40 contact hours.
- In the clinical years of the curriculum (years 3 and 4), contact time is greater than in the preclinical curriculum, with more emphasis on clinical/experiential learning.
  - Average time per clinical course per week could range between 40-70 contact hours.
  - Clinical credit hours are calculated on the formula: one credit = 40 contact hours.

## Policy Notes

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting body for programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. LCME Standard 6.8 Education Program Duration requires a medical education program include at least 130 weeks of instruction.

## Related Procedures

[Grading Policy](#)

## Related Documents

N/A

## Definitions

**Credit Hour:** The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) Title 34: Education Part 600- Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended, 600.2 defines a credit hour as an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency.

## **References**

[Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#)

[Liaison Committee on Medical Education](#)

## **Effective Date Current Version**

07/21/2020