
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

HANDBOOK 2023-24

- f. Community education or precollegiate programs have time requirements commensurate with the subject matter and purposes of specific programs. Except for this item, the standards in Standards for Accreditation III.A. do not apply to these programs.

2. Awarding Credit

- a. Credit shall be awarded consistently according to the published credit policies of the institution and in compliance with NASM standards. Institutional policies shall establish the credit hour in terms of time and achievement required. The minimum time requirement shall be consistent with or reasonably approximate the following: (1) a semester hour of credit represents at least 3 hours of work each week, on average, for a period of fifteen to sixteen weeks; (2) a quarter hour of credit represents at least 3 hours of work each week for a period of ten or eleven weeks. Credit for other kinds of academic requirements or offerings that are in different formats, use different modes of delivery, or that are structured to take a different amount of time is computed on the same basis in terms of representing at least the equivalent amount of work. Policies concerning achievement shall be consistent with the principle that credit is earned only when curricular, competency, and all other requirements are met and the final examination or equivalent is satisfactorily passed.

NOTE: The above standard does not (i) require that a credit hour definition at any institution for any course or purpose duplicate exactly the definition provided in Standards for Accreditation III.A.1. and 2., or that all programs or courses within a single institution follow the same credit hour policies; (ii) restrict an institution from requiring more student work per credit hour than indicated in Standards for Accreditation III.A.2.a.(1) and (2); (iii) dictate the ratio of in-class versus out-of-class work; or (iv) prevent an institution from establishing means and methods for equating the direct assessment of student learning to the awarding of 1 or more credit hours.

- b. In lecture-discussion courses, normally 1 hour of credit is given for one period of recitation (50 minutes) plus 2 hours of preparation each week of the term. In laboratory courses, normally 1 hour of credit is given for two to three 50-minute recitation periods per week. Institutions vary significantly in ways credit is granted for ensembles. Some regard ensembles as laboratory courses, either implicitly or explicitly; others grant credit based on factors such as, but not limited to the nature and size of the ensemble; whether the ensemble is coached or conducted; the amount of student preparation required; and relationships to other credit requirements in the total curricular program.
- c. It is recommended that 1 credit hour be given for each 3 hours per week of practice, plus the necessary individual instruction, with a maximum of six credits per term allowed for the major subject in music performance.
- d. When institutions offer programs and courses for abbreviated time periods, or in independent study, they must ensure that students completing such programs or courses acquire levels of knowledge, competence, and understanding comparable to that expected of students completing work in the standard time period. For example, in order to earn 1 hour of credit during a summer session, students must attend approximately the same number of class hours and make the same amount of preparation as they would in attending a 1-hour-per-week course for one term during the regular academic year.
- e. Institutions or curricular programs using a clock-hour system must ensure that their system for dealing with matters such as clock hour assignments or requirements and the relationship of clock hours to program completion is consistent with and equivalent, but not necessarily identical, to credit and time requirements as stated in Standards for Accreditation III.A. (see also the Note in Standards for Accreditation III.A.2.a.). Meeting this standard does not require