



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: 3.2.1 Course Credit
POLICY SECTION: 3.2 Academic Affairs
EFFECTIVE: 7/13
REVISED:

A. BACKGROUND:

U.S. Department of Education:

On October 29, 2010, the Department of Education published in the Federal Register final regulations on program integrity (75 FR 66832). The definition of a credit hour for Federal purposes is necessary, in part, because more than \$150 billion of Federal financial aid is awarded annually based on an individual student's enrollment, as represented by the number of credits. The credit hour is a basic unit of student aid eligibility, and the new regulations address vulnerabilities in the student aid programs that leave them open to fraud and abuse. The regulations reflect the Department of Education's responsibility to taxpayers to ensure value for their investment, while respecting recognized accrediting agencies as the 'reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training offered by the institutions or programs they accredit.'

NEASC:

"As an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, the Commission is obliged to follow federal law and regulations. By federal regulation, at the time of the comprehensive Evaluation, the Commission will review the institution's policies and procedures for determining credit hours that the institution awards for courses and programs and how those policies and procedures are applied to the institution's programs and coursework. "

B. POLICY STATEMENT:

For each credit hour, academic lecture courses will include one contact hour (50 minutes) involving direct faculty instruction (or its equivalent in blended and online learning formats) and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class work per week over a 15 week period. One credit hour will be awarded for laboratory and field/clinical courses which meet from 120 to 180 minutes per week over a 15 week period. The amount of time assigned to laboratory and field/clinical courses is determined by a consideration of transfer of theory to practice. For courses meeting in shorter timeframes, comparable equivalencies of contact time and out-of-class work are established.

C. POLICY APPLIES TO:

This policy governs all CCRI credit bearing courses.

D. RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

APPROVED: Ray M. Di Pasquale
Ray M. Di Pasquale, President

7-19-13
Date