

# The UTSA Definition of a Semester Credit Hour

Students are awarded credit for classes on the basis of “seat time” in class and out-of-class student work. UTSA uses Carnegie units to measure credit awarded to students for course work. A Carnegie semester unit of credit for students is equal to a minimum of three hours of work per week for a semester. For example, for lecture classes, a semester credit hour consists of the equivalent of at least one hour (a 50-minute period) per week of “seat time” in class and two hours per week of out-of-class student work for 16 weeks. For laboratory classes, one semester credit hour consists of the equivalent of a minimum of three hours of laboratory work per week for 16 weeks. Hence a standard three semester credit hour lecture class meets for a total of at least 48 contact hours for a semester, plus at least an average of 6 hours of outside of the classroom activities per week for 16 weeks. Online, hybrid, and individual instruction classes should make adjustments so that the total number of hours of work required by students is equivalent to that of a traditional face-to-face class. For classes offered in a shortened format, the hours are prorated so the classes contain the same total number of hours as if the classes were scheduled for a full 16-week semester.