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Awarding Credit

Practices for Awarding Credit

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette employs best practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery. Consistent with Board of Regents policies, all classes must be of reasonable length and include both content and contact sufficient to maintain high academic quality and standards commensurate with credit hours awarded. The basis for such certification of learning is a valid, credible assessment system that reliably determines whether a student possesses clearly identified standards based on knowledge, skills, and abilities.

UL Lafayette uses the semester system and awards student academic credit in units that are standard across higher education in the U.S. In addition, the University's courses meet the requirements of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System [1], which state, "For each semester hour of credit, a traditional lecture or laboratory course shall strive to meet a minimum of 750 minutes per lecture credit hour. Final exam periods may be counted as class time when computing required minutes." All "face-to-face" instruction offered by UL Lafayette adheres to this required seat-time policy. The registrar's office uses the time-credit formula cited above when providing faculty and departments the time slots in which to schedule classes, and it reviews all non-standard class-time requests to

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make sure they meet for the minimum number of minutes.

With the growth in distance-learning technologies and increases in the number of readings/special topic courses, independent study courses, and other more flexible course presentations, the customary method of determining course length for such non-traditional courses has been reexamined. The University recognizes the advantages of providing learning opportunities that are not restricted by time, place, or method of delivery.

Source

1. UL System Board Rules: Chapter 1 – Academics



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