

<b>Policies of the University of North Texas</b>	Chapter 6
<b>06.001 Evaluating, Awarding and Accepting Credit</b>	<b>Faculty Affairs</b>

**Policy Statement.** As an institution of higher education, the University of North Texas (UNT) holds the responsibility for determining and upholding standards related to the awarding of credit hours for student work consistent with national standards. This policy sets the definition of a credit hour and delineates the ways in which credits are evaluated, awarded and/or accepted by UNT.

At UNT, a credit hour represents at least a minimum level of student achievement of specific learning outcomes, as verified by an assessment of student work. UNT’s definition of the credit hour establishes a basis to quantify academic activity for purposes of awarding academic credentials and determining federal funding, including institutional eligibility, program eligibility, and student enrollment status and eligibility.

**Application of Policy.**

This policy applies to any academic credit that appears on an official transcript issued by the university, regardless of course level, whether graduate or undergraduate; or the mode of delivery, whether self-paced, online, blended, or face-to-face.

**Definitions.**

UNT defines one credit hour as:

1. A level of student learning demonstrated by the achievement of learning outcomes obtained through one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours outside of class student work each week, for approximately 15 weeks, or the achievement of equivalent learning outcomes over a different amount of time; or
2. A level of student learning demonstrated as equivalent to that stated in #1, above. For example, such equivalence may be demonstrated by faculty assessment of student knowledge, skills, and abilities in relation to stated learning outcomes that are:
  - Judged to be equivalent to those demonstrated by students who have successfully passed a course of study outlined in #1, above, or
  - Judged to be equivalent levels of work in academic activities including, for example, laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and/or independent research activity, or
  - Judged to meet standards established through recognized disciplinary or accrediting bodies, peer institutions, or other established methodology to affirm equivalency, so

long as those standards have been formally accepted by UNT through its curricular approval process.

### **Procedures and Responsibilities.**

The acceptance or awarding of credit at UNT rests upon the expertise and authority of the faculty within the relevant discipline. All academic units are responsible for ensuring that academic credit is awarded only for work that meets the requirements outlined in this policy.

### **Awarding Credit for Courses Delivered by UNT**

The curriculum committees, from the department, to college, to university level, are charged with following this policy in the review and approval of all courses and for certifying that the designated student learning outcomes for the course are appropriately represented in the number and level of credit hours awarded. The determination of credit hours is made when a course is initially developed and whenever a revision to an existing course is taken through the curriculum review process. A record of this determination is maintained by the Office of the Registrar and published in the graduate and undergraduate catalogs.

### **Time Constraints Related to Face-to-Face Delivery and Student Enrollment Load**

UNT complies with the standards for face-to-face courses and student enrollment limits set forth in the Texas Administrative Code. This code defines minimum standards for contact hours and time required for out-of-class learning and reflection. Exceptions to this standard require formal approval, as follows:

- Face-to-face courses that contain fewer contact hours or are delivered in shortened time periods must receive formal, written approval in advance from the academic dean with administrative responsibility for the program in which the course is delivered.
- Students wishing to enroll in more credit hours than stipulated by this standard must receive prior approval from the office of the dean with administrative responsibility for their degree program.

### **Acceptance of Credits in Transfer**

In accordance with the Texas Education Code, UNT accepts in transfer those courses designated by another Texas public institution of higher education as fulfilling the state-mandated core curriculum. UNT also accepts credits for transfer into specific academic programs as mandated by the state of Texas.

In addition, UNT may accept credit in transfer from any institution of higher education upon a determination that the course work and learning outcomes are comparable to UNT's own courses. The application of these courses to general education and elective requirements follow the rulings of the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The application of these courses to a major, minor or certificate is dependent upon the approval of the faculty of that

program, as confirmed through the curriculum approval process. In defined circumstances vocational/technical credits may be applied to specific baccalaureate degrees.

#### Granting of Credit through Validation of Equivalent Learning Achievements

UNT may award credit for the demonstration of specific competencies, whether or not they were acquired in an academic setting, providing that the assessment of such competencies assures equivalent rigor, substance and proficiency as would be demonstrated in UNT's own courses and programs. Such competencies may be validated through examination, performance, or portfolio. Assessments may be administered by UNT or by an entity endorsed by the appropriate graduate or undergraduate curriculum committee.

Such credits will not be granted in duplication of courses already taken, or for prerequisites for courses already taken. Credits earned in this manner cannot be substituted for a failing grade earned in a course.

In accepting and granting credit for learning that occurs outside the course work delivered in an academic setting, the university works to carefully balance the recognition of existing student competencies with the need to assure a coherent, progressive system of study that extends well beyond the simple accumulation of credits. Therefore, UNT will not apply such credit to meet UNT requirements for residency, or for meeting the minimum number of advanced hours for the degree or for the major.

#### References and Cross-references.

34 CFR 600.2

Texas Education Code, §§61.821 - 61.832

Texas Administrative Code - Title 19, Part1, Chapter 4, Subchapter A, Rule 4.6

UNT Policy 06.037, Course and Curriculum Development

Administrative Procedures: Awarding and Accepting Credit

Approved: June 30, 2011

Effective: June 30, 2011

Revised: January 9, 2015