

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

Credit hour is defined by the Department of Education as follows:

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

In accordance with federal guidelines and commonly accepted practices in higher education, GSBS operates the following credit hour policy, where one credit hour equates to one unit as described in the Graduate Catalog.

Lectures, Tutorials and Seminar Classes

One unit is assigned for one hour of lecture or seminar per week per quarter (12 weeks). For courses whose format differs from the 12-week quarter, one unit is assigned for 10 hours of lecture, tutorial, or seminar per quarter – to the nearest integer. Each hour of lecture, tutorial, or seminar is generally expected to require two additional hours of work (reading, writing, problem assignments, etc.). The table below is a guide to units and associated expected time commitments. Note that the tutorial time commitment may vary according to the topic prescribed by the tutor.

Course	Units	Contact hours	Total hours
SBP 260 - M2S	4	24 hours	72 hours
SBP 263 - MDDT	4	20 hours	60 hours
SBP 272 - Ethics	3	14 hours	42 hours
SBP 265 – Statistics	4	20 hours	60 hours
SBP 281 - Tutorial	1	4 hours	12 hours
SBP 275 – Biological Databases	4	20 hours	60 hours

Laboratory Research and its Equivalent

One unit is assigned for each three hours of laboratory or its equivalent (workshop, scientific meeting, independent study, etc.) per week per quarter. In addition to the units assigned for laboratory research, students are expected to contribute an equal amount of time per week to reading, writing, attending group meetings, etc. that pertain to their laboratory work.