
University Credit Hour Policy:

1.0 Guidance for Implementation of the University Credit Hour Policy

The spirit of the DOE's regulations (and HLC's related expectations) is that all students who engage in institutionally-required academic work should always have the opportunity to be awarded an amount of institutionally-defined academic credit commensurate for (a) the quantity of that academic work and (b) the quality of students' performance on/engagement in that academic work. In other words: If students are required to do academic work, they should be awarded credit for it. And the amount of credit to be awarded must be consistent with SLU's Credit Hour Policy and the definition of a credit hour.

Accordingly, "zero-credit hour" courses are not allowed when those zero-credit course/program requirements ask students to engage in academic work consistent with the nature of academic work in credit-bearing courses.

Example:

If a graduate program requires its first-year students to participate in a weekly, one-hour seminar designed to complement their other academic program requirements, and at which students will learn from and discuss program-related topics with the presenters and their student peers, students are, in fact, engaged in required academic work. Accordingly, student participation in the seminar should be codified via their enrollment in a credit-bearing course. If little to no related "homework" is required and the one clock hour per week is all that is required, that required seminar might best be codified as a .25 or .50 credit course – but it still must be a credit-bearing "course" requirement (either on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory or standard grading scale) for all students.

Example:

A program requires the submission of a portfolio of previously-completed academic work that

