

Belmont Abbey College Credit Hour Policy

Traditional Lecture and Seminar Courses

Belmont Abbey College uses the Carnegie Unit as the minimum standard for assigning credit hours. One credit hour therefore requires at least 50 minutes of classroom instruction (recitation, lecture, discussion, testing or evaluation, seminar or colloquium) and two hours of student preparation outside the classroom each week for a fifteen-week semester.

Nontraditional Lecture and Seminar Courses

Lecture and seminar courses offered in nontraditional formats require the same competencies and learning outcomes as those offered in a traditional fifteen-week semester and an equivalent of forty-five hours of work for each unit of credit. Students enrolled in nontraditional courses should expect substantial amounts of work outside the classroom to meet the same competencies and learning outcomes as those required in a traditional course.

Online / hybrid courses

Courses offered in other modes (such as fully online or mixed hybrids of online and seated work) that do not maintain the same number of contact hours award equivalent credit so long as one of the following criteria is met:

- a. the course covers the same material in the same depth as a seated version of the same course; or,
- b. the course has been evaluated by the department and by the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) for content and rigor, and both the department and the AAC have approved the award of credit. Approval must be received and documented prior to the start of the term in which the course is offered.

Laboratory Courses

One laboratory credit is defined as a minimum of two hours of work a week in a laboratory under the supervision of a lab supervisor/instructor and an expectation of at least one hour of additional student work each week for a fifteen-week semester.

Student Teaching

Students obtaining a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education are required to complete nine credit hours of student teaching. This equates to 600 hours of supervised work in a classroom for a fifteen-week semester. Students are also required to complete a three-credit seminar in student teaching that meets two hours a week with a college instructor and one hour a week with a classroom supervisor.

Internship/Practicum

One internship/practicum credit is defined as a minimum of 40 hours of supervised work in a field placement for a fifteen-week semester. Some programs also require additional seminar attendance and/or a paper assignment as part of the internship or practicum experience.

Thesis/Independent Study

A minimum of three hours of student work per week for a fifteen-week semester is required for each credit hour of thesis or independent study credit awarded.

Credit for Prior Learning

Qualified students may obtain course credit for experiential learning as acquired through employment and military experience. See the "Credit for Prior Learning" policy posted elsewhere in the *Academic Catalogue*.