

Definition of Credit Hour

John Brown University defines a credit hour as the amount of work required to achieve a reasonable approximation of the student learning outcomes that can be addressed in the context of a course which traditionally requires 42-45 hours of student work (including both contact time between the student and instructor and the student's independent work). The assignment of credit hours to a specific course will take into consideration expectations based on degree level, discipline, the type of learning experience (e.g., didactic, laboratory, studio work, clinical, practicums, internships), the students' age and prior experience, and the mode of delivery (e.g., face-to-face, online, hybrid). This definition is a minimum standard that does not restrict faculty from setting a higher standard that requires more student work per credit hour.