

11.03 Shortened Courses

Revised [November 15, 2018](#) (MO -2018)
Next Scheduled Review: November 15, 2023
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Policy Summary

This policy provides the universities (academic institutions) of The Texas A&M University System with the necessary guidelines by which to measure the number of contact hours required for each semester credit hour offered by the academic institution for traditional and non-traditional courses and reemphasizes the expectations of academic quality and rigor for courses offered by the academic institutions in a shortened format.

Definitions

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Policy

1. Academic institutions must be guided by the following Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule concerning the minimum length of courses:
 - 1.1 The minimum length for traditionally delivered three semester credit hour courses will be as follows:
 - 1.1.1 All shortened face-to-face courses must consist of the same number of class contact hours as similar three-hour courses offered in a regular session or summer session: that is, normally 45 to 48 contact hours. Courses must also have the same objectives, requirements and quality of instruction as regular length courses.
 - 1.1.2 Students should not carry more courses at a time in a shortened format than will give them total credit of one semester credit hour per week of instruction.
 - 1.1.3 Academic institutions may offer courses in a non-traditional format, such as through the Internet or in a shortened intensive format such as competency-based education or prior learning assessment strategies, which does not meet contact hour requirements if the course/strategy has been reviewed by a faculty review committee and determined to have equivalent learning outcomes to a traditionally delivered course.

- 1.1.4 All requirements for three semester credit hour courses must apply proportionately to courses for one, two, four or other semester credit hour values.
2. Academic institution presidents will develop guidelines necessary to implement and assure compliance with this policy. Any exceptions to Section 1.1.2 must be included in the guidelines.

Member Rule Requirement

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

System Office of Academic Affairs
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