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BLESSING-RIEMAN
College of Nursing
& Health Sciences

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Owner Reta Richmond:
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT-
BRCN
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Definition of Credit Hour

PURPOSE

To define *credit hours* and explain the calculated ratios for theory, clinical, and simulation for all programs.

POLICY

The Federal definition for a credit hour is used for all College programs/courses.

Credit Hour- 1 hour of didactic instruction and a minimum of 2 hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for 1 semester hour of credit.

PROCEDURE

Theory

Course faculty for all programs determine the assignments, readings, projects, and tests necessary to provide equivalent coursework for each credit hour.

Clinical/Lab

Clinical/lab hours are calculated according to the program of study:

Nursing

Nursing clinical hours are calculated using:

- A 1:4 ratio for sophomore level clinical/lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 4 clinical hours.
- A 1:3 ratio for junior level, senior level, and RN-BSN clinical/lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 clinical hours.

Respiratory

Respiratory care clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:6 ratio with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 clinical hours.
- A 1:3 ratio with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 lab hours.

Radiologic Science

Radiologic Science clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:6 ratio for sophomore and junior level radiography clinical with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 clinical hours.
- A 1:5 ratio for senior level radiography clinical with 1 credit hour being equal to 5 clinical hours.
- A 1:6 ratio for senior level MRI, CT, and Women's Imaging clinical with 1 credit hour being equal to 6 clinical hours.
- A 1:3 ratio for radiography lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 3 lab hours.

Medical Laboratory Science

Medical Laboratory clinical/lab hours are calculated using:

- A 1:5 ratio for clinical with 1 credit hour being equal to 5 clinical hours.
- A 1:2 ratio for lab with 1 credit hour being equal to 2 lab hours.

Simulation

Simulation in Theory

When incorporating simulation time into theory, the simulation hour to theory hour ratio is 1:1.

Example: 2 simulation hours are equal to 2 hours of seat time in theory.

Simulation in Clinical

When incorporating simulation time into the clinical schedule, the simulation hour to clinical hour ratio is 1:2 with 1 simulation hour being equal to 2 clinical hours.

Example: 3 simulation hours are equal to 6 clinical hours.

Asynchronous Online Courses

Asynchronous online courses follow the College's definition of a credit hour.

e.g. Students in a 15-week, three-credit online course are expected to complete coursework that is equivalent to three hours in the classroom (1 hour per credit) per week and a minimum of six hours (2

hours per 1 credit) of out of classroom time per week.

e.g. Students in a 8-week, three-credit online course, are expected to complete coursework that is equivalent to three hours in the classroom (1 hour per credit) for a 15 week semester.

For all courses, in-person and asynchronous online, students are expected to have a minimum of 2 hours per 1 credit of out of classroom learning time per week.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Approval by College Senate	Reta Richmond: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT-BRCN	07/2024
Approval by Academic Chair	Lisa King: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	05/2024
Approval by Academic Chair	Lacey Petersen: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	05/2024