

## Curriculum and Curriculum Changes

1. “Credit Hour” is the unit by which Elon measures its course work regardless of format or mode of delivery, and regardless of the course level. Students, institutions, employers, and others rely on the common currency of academic credit to support a wide range of activities, including the transfer of students from one institution to another and for the awarding financial aid.
2. The number of credit hours assigned to a course quantitatively reflects the outcomes expected, the mode of instruction, the amount of time spent in class (including the final examination), and the amount of outside preparatory work expected for the class.
3. Academic credit has provided the basis for measuring the amount of learning time expected of a typical student enrolled not only in traditional classroom settings, but also in laboratories, studios, internships and other experiential learning, as well as in study abroad and online education.
4. Elon follows the definition of a credit hour outlined in federal regulations and supported by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges as: “Not less than one hour [most frequently implemented as 50 minutes] of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester hour of credit, or at least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, study abroad, study-away, hybrid-technology courses, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”
5. Students taking an Elon course online are required to meet outcomes equivalent to students who are taking sections of the course in the classroom setting.
6. The typical 4-credit hour Elon undergraduate class meets either three times a week for 70 minutes (210 minutes/week or 52.5 minutes per credit hour) or twice a week for 100 minutes (200 minutes/week or 50 minutes per credit hour) for 13-14 weeks (not including final exams). In addition to these in-class commitments and the reading and course preparation, Elon students are often expected to participate in activities outside of class such as service learning, collaborative work, internships, practicum, and studio work. Elon requires a minimum of 132 hours of course work for degree completion. (The following chart explains Elon’s implementation of the credit hour in minutes and hours)

**Implementation of Credit Hour at Elon University**  
(Numbers reflect minimum time allotments)

	<b>Instructional Type</b>	<b>In-Class Time per week plus exam</b>	<b>Out-of-Class Course Preparation Time per week plus exam study</b>	<b>TOTAL Clock Hours per Credit Hour</b>	<b>Additional Experiential Activity Time at Elon</b>
<b>Federal</b> 1 credit-hour definition		50 min x 15 weeks= <b>750 minutes</b> <b>(12.5 hours)</b>	100 min x 15 weeks= <b>1,500 minutes</b> <b>(25 hours)</b>	150 min x 15 weeks= <b>2,250 minutes</b> <b>(37.5 hours)</b>	
<b>Elon</b> 1 credit-hour definition	<u>Lecture/Seminar/Discussion</u>  Classes meeting M-W-F  —————  Classes meeting T-Th	<i>52.5 minutes x 13.5 weeks = 708.5 minutes,</i> plus 60 minutes for final exam = <b>768.5 minutes</b> <b>(12.8 hours)</b>	<i>105 minutes x 13.5 weeks = 1,417.5 minutes</i> Plus 120 minutes for exam study = <b>1,537.5 minutes</b> <b>(25.62 hours)</b>	<b>2306 minutes</b> <b>(38.4 hours)</b>	Elon classes may include additional time for experiential learning activities out of class such as group project work, service learning, research etc.
		<i>50 minutes x 13.5 weeks = 675 minutes</i> plus 60 minutes for final exam = <b>735 minutes</b> <b>(12.25 hours)</b>	100 minutes/wk x 13.5= 1,350 minutes Plus 120 minutes for exam study = <b>1,470 minutes</b> <b>(24.5 hours)</b>	<b>2,205 minutes</b> <b>(36.75 hours)</b>	
		120 minutes per week x 12 weeks = <b>1440 minutes</b> <b>(24 hours)</b>	70 minutes per week* x 12 weeks = <b>840 minutes</b> <b>(14 hours)</b> <b>(*includes time spent on out of class project)</b>	<b>2280 minutes</b> <b>(38 hours)</b>	
	<u>Laboratory Classes</u>	100 minutes per week x 10 weeks = <b>1000 minutes</b> <b>(16 hours 40 min)</b>	150 minutes per week* x 10 weeks = <b>1500 minutes</b> <b>(25 hours)</b> <b>(*includes time spent on out of class project)</b>	<b>2500 minutes</b> <b>(41 hours 40 min)</b>	
		180 minutes per week x 12 weeks = <b>2160 minutes</b> <b>(36 hours)</b>	60 minutes per week x 12 weeks = <b>720 minutes</b> <b>(12 hours)</b>	<b>2880 minutes</b> <b>(48 hours)</b>	
	<u>Performance/Recital/</u>	(100-200)			

	<u>Ensemble</u>	range) 100 minutes per week x 13.5 weeks= <b>1,350 minutes (22.5 hours)</b>	200 minutes per week x 13.5 weeks= <b>2,700 minutes (45 hours)</b>	<b>4050 minutes (67.5 hours)</b>	
	<u>Internship</u>	40-80 hours ( <i>on-site</i> )	0-40 hours	<b>40-120 hours</b>	
	<u>Independent Study</u>		Min. 3 hrs/week	<b>2430 Minutes (40.5 Hours)</b>	
	<u>Study Abroad</u> Winter Term Semester <u>Study-Away</u>  <u>Online Courses</u>	All Elon University classes, regardless of mode or location of delivery, must be of reasonable length and include both content and contact sufficient to maintain high academic quality and standards commensurate with credit hours awarded for a traditional four-semester hour lecture class. The basis for such certification of learning is a valid, credible assessment system which reliably determines whether a student possesses clearly identified, standards-based knowledge, skills, and abilities.			
	<u>Clinical</u> (Health Sciences Only)	80 hours ( <i>on-site</i> )		<b>80 hours (<i>on-site</i>)</b>	

7. Exceptions to the credit hour regulations above should be proposed to the University Curriculum Committee including an explanation of the type of variance to be applied and the expected benefit. The UCC will examine expectations for learning and consider relevant circumstances before deciding whether such a variance will be allowed.