

Definitions of Academic Credit and Credit Hour

Sullivan College of Technology and Design (SCTD) is a degree granting postsecondary institution nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) located in Washington, D.C. SCTD bases its definition of academic credit and the quarter credit hour on standards provided by ACICS and approved by the U. S. Department of Education.

The number of credit hours assigned to an SCTD course is determined by the kinds and lengths of activities that occur within that course: classroom lecture and discussion, outside reading and other assignments, laboratory or shop hours and, in some cases, practicum or externship hours at an actual job site. Ten hours of classroom lecture accompanied by 20 hours of homework are the equivalent of one credit hour. Twenty hours of laboratory or shop work equals one credit hour, and thirty hours of practicum experience are the equivalent of a credit hour.

As examples of this credit-hour formula, a four credit-hour course at SCTD normally contains 40+ hours of classroom lecture and discussion plus approximately 80 hours of outside work; a three credit-hour course normally contains 20 hours of classroom lecture and discussion plus approximately 40 hours of homework and 20 hours of laboratory work. The majority of courses at SCTD contain 44 contact hours between the instructor and students. An externship or practicum course is typically a three credit-hour course requiring 90 hours of student work with an approved employer. Modular courses in Computer Network Administration are assigned 12 credit hours and contain 140 contact hours. Approximately 100 of those hours are used for lecture/discussion (plus outside work) and 40 for laboratory assignments.