

## Department of Music Credit Hour Definitions for Syllabi

*[For all syllabi]*

### **Credit hour:**

The credit hour is defined as the basic unit of academic work as it relates to faculty instructional time and student work outside of class. The details of what constitutes a credit hour differ for laboratory, lecture, and directed or independent study courses.

A contact hour (hour of instruction) is defined as 50 minutes of class time. The number of contact hours plus student work hours outside of class required per credit hour for different types of courses is as follows:

*[For all lecture course syllabi]*

### **Lecture Courses:**

For each contact hour of lecture course instruction, students are expected to spend a minimum of 2 hours outside of class completing assignments and preparing for class. Thus, a 3 credit-hour lecture course will require an average of 6 hours per week of work outside of class.

*[For all laboratory course syllabi]*

### **Laboratory Courses:**

For 1 or 2 contact hours per week of laboratory course instruction, students are expected to spend a minimum of ½ hour per day outside of class practicing or completing assignments. Thus, a 1 or 2 credit-hour laboratory course will require a minimum average of 3½ hours practice per week.

*[For all ensemble course syllabi]*

### **Ensemble Courses:**

Ensemble courses meet for 3-5 hours of rehearsal time per week and grant 1 hour credit. A minimum of 3 hours of outside practice is expected per week.

*[For all directed or independent study syllabi]*

### **Directed or Independent Study:**

For directed or independent study (defined as study given initial guidance, criticism, review and final evaluation of student performance by a faculty member), 1 credit hour will be awarded for the equivalent of fifteen 180-minute sessions of academic activity (individual work or consultation with instructor). Thus, 3 hours of directed study credit would be the equivalent of a minimum of forty-five 180 minute sessions of academic activity. This is an average of 9 hours per week for a 15 week semester.

*[For all applied course syllabi]*

### **Applied Courses:**

For applied courses a substantial amount of outside practice and preparation is expected. These are minimum guidelines:

Minor and Secondary Applied: ½ hour practice per day outside of class plus ½ contact hour per week for 1 hour credit.

Music Education and B.A. Applied: 1 hour practice per day outside of class plus 2 contact hours for 2 hours credit.

Performance Major Applied: 3 hours practice per day outside of class plus 3 contact hours for 4 hours credit.

*[For all syllabi]*

*These guidelines are in compliance with VSU standards on credit hour policy. They are minimum or average expectations for student academic activity as it relates to college credit. With such investments of time, the average student in an average course might reasonably expect to make an average grade, or C. Earning a higher grade may require more than this average investment of expected student academic activity.*

*[For all syllabi that may be repeated for advanced or upper level content]*

**Repeating a Class for Additional Credit:**

This course may be repeated for credit. Repeating this course implies that the work produced for additional credit will be at an advanced level in comparison to that produced the first time. The outline for this course will identify additional or advanced expectations and content for successive enrollments.

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