

A Breakdown of Credit Units at Jackson Hole Bible College

Semester Calendar Credit Hours

Introduction

The concept of a credit hour is important in the United States because it provides an academic standard for higher institutions of learning to obtain FAFSA grants and loans from the federal government. Because Jackson Hole Bible College does not utilize the FAFSA program, there is a sense in which credit hours are irrelevant to the academics at JHBC. It is worth noting that other highly recognized Christian institutions, such as Boyce College and Southern Baptist Seminary, also do not use FAFSA or any other kind of government funding for their academic programs.

The choice to not use federal monies for educational funding in no way implies, suggests, or determines the academic inferiority of a school. However, this can be a common misconception among higher academic communities in the United States. Therefore, what follows is a general academic breakdown of the curricula of Jackson Hole Bible College, as it may prove useful to students wishing to transfer their credits to another institution.

Definition

Most U.S. higher education institutions operate on an academic year divided into two equal semesters of 15-16 weeks' duration, with a winter break of 2-3 weeks and a summer session of 10-12 weeks, plus additional shorter breaks. The actual amount of academic work that goes into a single semester credit hour is normally calculated as:

One lecture (taught) or seminar (discussion) credit hour represents 1 hour per week of scheduled class/seminar time and 2 hours of student preparation time.

It is important to note that student preparation time is always *assumed* for each lecture hour. I.e., it is the reasonable amount of needed time, expected on average, for class work to obtain proficiency.

Most lecture and seminar courses are awarded 3 credit hours. Over an entire semester, a 3 credit class normally represents at least 45 hours of class time and 90 hours of student preparation.

The Credit Hour Formula

JHBC Classroom lectures: 15 hours per week

JHBC Fall Semester: 16 weeks

- Lecture hours: $15 \times 16 = 240$
- Student Preparation hours: 480

Total lecture & student preparation hours: 720

Credit calculation formula: (1 lecture hour + 2 student hours) x 15 weeks = 3 credit hours

$45 = 3$

Credit hour = $3/45$

Credit hour = $.067 \times$ (total lecture & student hours)

720 total Fall Semester lecture & student hours $\times .067 = 48.24$ total credit hours

48.24 credit hours/ $3 = 16$ classes worth 3 credits each.

In other words, each week's class at JHBC represents the same workload of a 3 credit hour semester-long class at traditional colleges and universities. This is because the students receive 15 hours per week of lecture instruction, as opposed to the 2 hours of instruction per week, per class, that is normally given. The students at JHBC also spend an average of 30 hours per week in preparation and study, as opposed to the 6 hours of weekly effort expected, per class, in a traditional college or university.

Currently, JHBC is only awarding 22.5 credits for the Fall semester, while the actual workload represents just over 48 credits, assuming 15 hours of lectures per week for 16 weeks.

Helpful links:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2019/03/12/more-confusion-credit-hour-definition>

https://nasm.arts-accredit.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/02/Credit_Hour_Advisory_October-2015.pdf

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/dpclletters/GEN1106.pdf>

