Credit Hour Determination Policy

Scope
Applies to Mayo Clinic School of Medicine (MCSOM) students when determining the value of academic credit.

Purpose
To describe the determination of credit hours for required courses at MCSOM. ("Course" collectively represents all required curriculum components, e.g. block, longitudinal learning experience, clerkship, sub-internship, selective, elective, etc.)

Policy
- MCSOM has established the credit hour as the measure of educational credit a student may receive for reporting or other purposes, including the academic transcript.
- In the preclinical years of the curriculum (years 1 and 2), MCSOM course credit hours include but are not limited to lectures, laboratories, small group discussions, case-based learning activities, and problem solving.
  - Most preclinical courses are primarily didactic in nature.
  - Average contact time per course per week is approximately 15-18 hours.
  - Didactic course credit hours are calculated on the formula: one credit = 40 contact hours.
- In the clinical years of the curriculum (years 3 and 4), contact time is greater than in the preclinical curriculum, with more emphasis on clinical/experiential learning.
  - Average time per clinical course per week could range between 40-70 contact hours.
  - Clinical credit hours are calculated on the formula: one credit = 40 contact hours.

Policy Notes
The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting body for programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. LCME Standard 6.8 Education Program Duration requires a medical education program include at least 130 weeks of instruction.

Related Procedures
Grading Policy

Related Documents
N/A

Definitions
Credit Hour: The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) Title 34: Education Part 600-Institutional Eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended, 600.2 defines a credit hour as an amount of work represented in intended learning
outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency.

References
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations
Liaison Committee on Medical Education

Effective Date Current Version
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