

New Policy

Graduate Courses, Credits and Curriculum

The Graduate Courses, Credits and Curriculum policy defines course credit hour; minimum credit hours required for certificate, masters or doctoral degrees; comprehensive assessments; and credit by examination.



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. II- GRADUATE:

GRADUATE COURSES, CREDITS AND CURRICULUM

UNIT POLICY—ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Semester Credit Hour: The unit of academic work is the semester credit hour defined as one 50-minute lecture period (or at least two periods of laboratory or field work) per week throughout one fifteen week semester. Summer sessions are shorter in duration; however, the contact hours each week are increased proportionately. Online or blended courses will have the same learning outcomes as those delivered in traditional classroom instruction. Because learning in online and blended courses may not be quantified in terms class meeting time, emphasis is placed upon evidence of student learning.

1. **Minimum credit hours for Degree/Certificate:** The following minimum graduate credit hours are required for each type of graduate program. Individual programs may require a higher number of credit hours to fulfill disciplinary accreditation requirements.
 - a. Certificate programs: 12 credit hours of graded course work beyond the bachelor's degree
 - b. Masters programs: 30 credit hours beyond bachelor's degree
 - i. 24 credit hours of graded course work and 6 credit hours for thesis, or
 - ii. 27 credit hours of graded course work and 3 credit hours for project, or
 - iii. 30 credit hours of graded course work
 - c. Doctoral programs: 72 credit hours beyond bachelor's degree.
 - i. 36 credit hours of graded course work

- ii. 12 credit hours of dissertation research
- 2. Comprehensive Assessments: Graduate programs may require students to successfully complete a comprehensive assessment. The assessment may include a comprehensive examination (written and/or oral), a research project, thesis, dissertation, capstone course, portfolio, internship, field experience and/or equivalent. For details, students are referred to program/department handbooks.
- 3. Credit by Examination: Credit for some graduate courses may be earned by examination provided it has been approved by the graduate coordinator and/or chairperson of the department and the dean of the Graduate School. The student may be required to pay a nonrefundable fee per semester hour in advance of the examination. The examination must be conducted within one week and the grade must be reported to the graduate school within two weeks following approval of the petition by the dean of the Graduate School. Credit earned through examination will not count towards residence credit requirements.

Date Original is Effective: August 15, 2012, except that a student who began graduate work on a degree prior to the effective date may continue under any prior established criteria until such time as the student graduates with that degree or becomes subject to a new catalog

First approved: August _____, 2012

Revised:

Approved by the Chancellor

Harold L. Martin, Sr.
Chancellor

Winser Alexander
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs