

Instructional Time & Credit Equivalency (C2g.v02)

Credit Hour Equivalency

All NDCDE courses (unless stated otherwise) are one-half-unit courses and are equivalent to one semester (1/2 credit) and are expressed in Carnegie Units.

NDCDE uses requirements in NDCC 15.1-21-03 to evaluate its coursework and ensure that instructional time (as defined below) equates to one semester (i.e., half unit) of credit. Per this law, a full unit of credit equals 120 hours for each high school unit and 150 hours for natural sciences and each CTE unit, and consequently, a half unit must equate to 60 hours for all high school courses except those classified as natural sciences and CTE courses, which must equate to 75 hours per semester. While NDCDE analyzes its curriculum to estimate the number of hours associated with each course, this is an estimation and the amount of time that students dedicate to the course may vary because NDCDE is delivers instruction in an asynchronous, self-paced format.

Instructional Time

NDCDE purchases its curricular content from vendors, reviewing it before purchasing and offering it to students in accordance with its Selection and Revision of Curricular Content Policy, E3. When the NDCDE analyzes high school curricula, they shall estimate the number of hours needed for students to complete a course based on the following criteria associated with formulating the total instructional time.

- The total time needed to watch course videos, calculated at a 1:1 ratio
- The amount of time needed to review written course content in the LMS, which varies by the intended target age and by the complexity of the course content
- The amount of time needed to review external course content links (e.g., reading an article, listening to a podcast, or watching an external instructional video)
- The estimated amount of time needed to complete online course activities designed to reinforce learning
- The amount of time needed to complete course assessments taken online
- The average amount of time students spend engaged with NDCDE teachers on course content based on historical data collected on similar courses

The amount of time needed to complete course assignments (i.e., homework) and study, which is work students complete on their own outside the online classroom, is separate from the estimated instructional time count and not included in the definition of instructional time.

After making a determination of a course's instructional time, the NDCDE review team will ensure that this estimate meets state requirements for high school instructional time and may decide to add to content and activities to the course to meet these standards if short. If adding additional content is not feasible, the review team will disapprove of using the course.

End of policy

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Policy Referenced:

[Selection & Revision of Curricular Content, E3](#)