

Credit Hour Definition

Each semester credit hour represents an amount of instruction that is equivalent to 700 contact minutes (14 contact hours) of classroom-based direct instruction. The amount of time that is required to earn 1 semester credit hour in a laboratory, fieldwork, studio, or seminar-based course varies with the nature of the subject and the aims of the course. One credit hour equals 14 contact hours per semester.

One pre-clinical contact hour is equivalent to the following:

- Minimum of 2 or 3 hours of work in a laboratory, field, or seminar-based setting
- 50 minutes of classroom-based, direct instruction
- 1 exam (NOT including the final exam)

Semester credit hours earned in courses such as externships, research, clinical rotations, etc. are based on different expectations.

- **Clinical rotation** duty begins at 8:00 am on the first day of assignment (typically a Monday) and ends at 8:00 am on the first assigned day for the next rotation (typically a Monday).
- **Externship** duty mirrors the hours of the preceptor, typically beginning on the first day of assignment (usually a Monday) and ending on the last day of assignment (usually a Sunday). Students on externships are required to work a minimum of 40 hours per week.

Sources: 2017-2018 Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php?catoid=23>), UTCVM Externship Packet (https://vetmed.tennessee.edu/academics/Documents/Externship_Packet.pdf), and the Small Animal Hospital Student Handbook (<https://vetmed.tennessee.edu/VetNet/Departments/sacs/dlforms/SACS-Student-Handbook.pdf>).