

## How Many Courses Should I Take Per Semester?

The majority of college courses are three credits or three hours, the terms are interchangeable. For example: College Algebra MATH 1314 – the second digit number is a (3) three therefore the course is assigned three credits.

Professors are required by state law to provide 48 hours of instruction for each 3 credit course; regardless of the length of term, (16 weeks, 12 weeks....) or platform. (classroom, hybrid, or distance education).

For distance education courses, the 48 hours of instruction may involve more of a collaborative learning environment in WebCT between the students and professors. For example, professors may include online discussions about a topic, case studies, projects, small group work and other methods of learning.

In addition to the instructional component, students will have outside work to complete; for example quizzes, tests, readings, essays, and other methods of learning.

Below is a chart that will help you understand the average time you need to spend for each 3-credit course.

For each hour of instruction, you should spend 1 to 2 more hours outside of the classroom to complete assignments, readings, tests, quizzes, special projects.....

### “Golden Rule” for College Success

<b>Class length in a semester</b>	<b>Hours per week in the classroom; including hybrid, or distance education</b>	<b>Total hours per week of average commitment per class</b>
16 weeks	3 hours	6-9 hours
12 weeks	4 hours	8-12 hours
11 weeks	4.5 hours	9-13.5 hours
10 weeks	5 hours	10-15 hours
8 weeks	6 hours	12-18 hours
5 weeks	10 hours	20-30 hours

Questions to ask yourself before you enroll in courses:

- How much time am I willing to invest in coursework per week?
- What does a typical day, or week look like for me? Are there activities that I can exclude from my schedule to allow for more study time?
- Am I willing to make school a priority?

References:

<http://www.ion.illinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/instructionalstrategies.asp>

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