

CREDIT HOUR DEFINITIONS AND AUDIT PROCESS

Updated 10-1-2020

UMass Chan Medical School, which consists of its T.H. Chan School of Medicine, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing and Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, fulfills the following Federal definition of a credit hour:

“Except as provided in 34 CFR 668.8(k) and (1), a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than –

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or 10-12 weeks for one quarter hours of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”

Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Course Credit Hour Assignments and Assessments

All new courses, their associated syllabi, methods of student evaluation and credit hours must be reviewed by the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Assembly Curriculum Committee. Once approved by this Committee, the course is presented for approval to the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Assembly, a body of representative faculty, students and administrators selected by each Program of Study and appointed by the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean. An approved course returns to the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Assembly for review only when the content, evaluation methodology or credit hours are significantly altered or when student evaluations of the course demand the attention of the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean, Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Assembly and/or the faculty.

Faculty and Student Notifications:

The credit hour assignments will be available on public websites where they can be accessed by individuals or offices with UMass Chan credentials for inclusion in appropriate materials. It will also be presented at relevant curriculum committee meetings to ensure faculty awareness.

The credit hour assignments are posted on the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences internet site at:

1. <https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academic-student-affairs/academic-milestones/courses/>
2. <https://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs/academics/>

Examples of credit assignments:

- BBS719 – Cellular Biochemistry: This course meets during the spring semester for three hours of contact time each week (90 minutes/day, two days/week). A minimum of six hours preparation time is expected each week. This course is assigned three credits.

- BBS782 – Bases of Brain Disease: This course meets during the spring semester for two hours of contact time each week (120 minutes/day, one day/week). A minimum of four hours preparation time is expected each week. This course is assigned two credits.
- CTS603B – Statistical Methods for Survival and Longitudinal Analysis: This course meets during the spring semester for 4.5 hours of contact time each week (90 minutes/day, three days/week). A minimum of eight hours preparation time is expected each week. This course is assigned four credits.