

3.4.6 The institution employs sound and acceptable practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery.
(Practices for awarding credit)

Compliance Status: Compliance

The USG Board of Regents ensures a degree of uniformity regarding credit amounts. More specifically, [Section 3.4.1](#) in the *Board of Regents Policy Manual* defines the length of a semester to be 15 calendar weeks and 75 class days. The same policy also states that a semester credit hour be associated with a minimum of 750 minutes or its equivalent of instruction. [Section 3.4.2](#) of the *Board of Regents Policy Manual* also states that the Chancellor shall determine the length of the semester and that all institutions in the system will observe the same length, a stipulation that further ensures that there will be a level of uniformity among all of the institutions of higher education in the state.

The USG also publishes its guidelines for awarding and transferring General Education course credit in [Section 4.2.1.3](#) of the *Board of Regents Policy Manual*. Additionally, courses that are part of a new degree program must undergo the review that is a part of the submission process required for Board of Regents' approval. To ensure that both the amount and level of credit are appropriate, course syllabi, which include course content, student learning outcomes, and assignments, are reviewed by the Faculty Senate's Curriculum Committee as part of this review process.

Distance Education

The College does not offer any online degree programs at this time. However, the institution has several courses whose primary delivery mechanism is electronic (mainly through its Blackboard Academic Suite system). When assigning credit hours to an approved course that will be taught online or as a hybrid, the School Dean reviews the syllabus to ensure course content, contact hours, and expected learning outcomes remain the same. A sampling of online courses from Spring Semester 2011 includes:

- CSCI 1201 - Computer Concepts
- EDUC 2110 - Investigating Critical & Contemporary Issues in Education
- ENGL 1102 - English Composition II
- ENGL 2111 - World Literature I
- ENGL 2112 - World Literature II
- HINF 2000 - Medical Terminology
- HIST 2111 - U.S. History I
- HIST 2112 - U.S. History II
- POLS 1101 - American Government
- RDNG 4420 - Prescriptive Literacy Instruction

Faculty that are teaching online courses are in most cases also teaching the face-to-face sections and blended/hybrid classes of that course. All online courses follow SACSCOC protocol – [Distance Education: Definition and Principles – A Policy Statement](#).

Supporting Documentation

[*USG Board of Regents Policy Manual, Sections 3.4*](#)

[*USG Board of Regents Policy Manual, Section 4.2.1.3*](#)

[*SACSCOC, Distance Education: Definition and Principles – A Policy Statement*](#)