



CREDIT HOUR ASSIGNMENT POLICY FOR MASTER DEGREE PROGRAMS

PURPOSE

This Credit Hour Assignment Policy is intended to ensure that the number of credits awarded for the completion of each PRSNA course reflects the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) requirements for classroom hours and recommended out of class course work, and is appropriate for the pursuit of identified learning outcomes.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the assignment of credit hours to all current and new master's programs of PRSNA, as well as related review and assessment processes.

DEFINITION OF A "SEMESTER CREDIT HOUR"

For purpose of calculating units of credit, one semester credit is equivalent to one hour of lecture plus two hours (120 minutes) of out-of-class course work. This calculation is in theoretical courses and seminars. Except for the course of ANES 5023 Introduction to Clinical Practice of two credits (2 credits), for which each credit is a proportion of 1:2, which is equivalent of four hours of lecture. For purpose of calculating units of credit in CLINICAL courses one unit of credit is equivalent to four hours of lecture in the Clinical Practice Courses. The number of assigned practice hours has the purpose of providing the students with learning experiences in the diverse areas of the specialty. This will depend on the diversity of types of surgeries and anesthesia's, conditions, patient stages of growth and development. Besides, it is also so that students complete the number of cases required by the professional organization.

The proportion of credit/contact hours in practice courses increases once the student has acquired basic knowledge and skills. The hours in the courses offered in

accelerated modality such as summer, trimester or intensive sessions are calculated and offered based on the corresponding number of hours each course has on the semester session, adjusting the schedule as needed.

OUT OF CLASS EFFORT REQUIRED

Consistent with the definition of a semester credit hour set forth in this policy, students in onsite lecture/didactic courses shall be expected to devote approximately two hours outside the classroom on related course work, such as study, preparation of written assignments and course-related projects.

Instructors shall acquaint students with such expectations clearly at the beginning of each course and thereafter, as appropriate, to foster positive learning outcomes. In addition, standard syllabi shall include a clear notice apprising students of expectations for course-related out of class work.

CREDITS ASSIGNED TO PARTICULAR TYPES OF COURSES

In assigning credits to courses, PRSNA shall maintain consistent standards for courses of different lengths and delivery methods as follows:

Course Type	Credit Requirements
Theoretical Courses and Seminars	<p>One semester credit shall be equal to one hour (60 minutes) of classroom instruction plus two hours (120 minutes) of out-of-class course work over a span of 18 weeks, or the equivalent amount of classroom instruction and out-of-class work over a different span of time.</p> <p>1 credit of theoretical or seminar course = 18 hours.</p> <p>Example: A three credit course will meet once a week for a session of three hours, and the students will be required to complete two hours of out-of-class work per week.</p>
Clinical Courses	<p>One semester credit shall be equal to four hours (240 minutes) of classroom instruction plus four hours (240 minutes) of out-of-class course work over a span of 18 weeks, or the equivalent amount of classroom instruction and out-of-class work over a different span of time.</p> <p>1 credit of clinical practice = 72hrs per semester</p> <p>Example: In an eight-credit clinical practice course the students will complete 576 hours of practice, and 240 hours of out-of-class course work.</p>

The following table presents how the Master Science in Anesthesia complies with the credit hour policy and with the Council of Accreditation of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

COA Recommendations	PRSNA credit hours	
Pharmacology of anesthetic agents and adjuvant drugs including concepts in chemistry and biochemistry (105 contact hours)	ANES 5213 Pharmacology (6crs)	08hrs
	ANES 5203 Chemistry and Physics (4crs)	72hrs
	Total	180hrs
Anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology (135 contact hours)	ANES 5101 Anatomy (5crs)	90hrs
	ANES 5102 Physiology (5crs)	90hrs
	ANES 5111 Physiopathology (3crs)	54hrs
	Total	234hrs
Professional aspects of nurse anesthesia practice (45 contact hours)	ANES 5324 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia (2crs)	36hrs
	ANES 5023 Introduction to Clinical Anesthesia (2crs)	72hrs
	Total	108hrs
Basic and advanced principles of anesthesia practice including physics, equipment, technology and pain management (105 contact hours)	ANES 5221 Basic principles of Nurse Anesthesia (3crs)	54hrs
	ANES 5022 Advanced principles of nurse Anesthesia (6crs)	108hrs
	Total	162hrs
Research (30 contact hours)	IANES 5351 Evidenced-based research I (3crs)	54hrs
	IANES 5452 Evidenced-based research II (3crs)	54hrs
	Total	108hrs
Clinical correlation conferences (45 contact hours)	ANES 5231 Seminar I (1cr)	18hrs
	ANES 5032 Seminar II (1cr)	18hrs
	ANES 5333 Seminar III (1cr)	18hrs
	ANES 5434 Seminar IV (1cr)	18hrs
	Total	72hrs
	ANES 5112 Advanced Physical Exam (3crs)	54hrs
	ANES 5341 Clinical practice I (8crs)	576hrs
	ANES 5442 Clinical practice II (10crs)	720hrs
	ANES 5043 Clinical practice III (10crs)	720hrs
Total hours recommended by COA	465	Total hours by PRSNA 2,934

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Consistent with the definition of a semester credit hour set forth in this policy, PRSNA academic calendar shall consist of two semesters (Fall and Spring) and summer. Each semester shall be 18 weeks in duration and a summer of nine weeks in duration. The Academic Calendar shall be posted in the PRSNA Catalog, on the College public website, and on POPULI.

ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF SEMESTER CREDITS

The number of credits assigned to each course shall be considered in course design and syllabi. Expected student learning outcomes for each course shall meet the semester credit hour standard. Consideration of assigned credits shall be incorporated in the periodic review of syllabi by program director, curriculum committee reviews, and formal program reviews conducted after the first two years for new programs and every five years thereafter. The PRSNA Dean shall review credits assigned to courses and submit their recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer for final approval in accordance with the standards prescribed in this policy.

REVIEW AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The Curriculum Committee, as part of their tasks, review the credit hour equivalency throughout the curriculum. The registrar records these for reporting to Federal, State, accreditation, and other entities as required. The registrar determines whether these credit hours should be included on the official transcript. Some common areas that are considered for review are: length of academic terms, the number and duration of class meetings per week, and the credit hours assigned to new courses, all these should be reviewed to ensure they comply with the credit hour policy.

A periodic review of the Credit Hour Policy should be also incorporated when considered necessary as part of the review and self-study processes. The Curriculum Committee, as part of their tasks, should review this policy when considered necessary.