UNIVERSITY RULE

11.03.99.M1 Shortened Courses
Approved January 27, 2011
Next Scheduled Review: January 27 2016

Rule Statement

This rule provides Texas A&M University with the necessary guidelines by which to measure the number of contact hours required for each semester credit hour offered by the University for a traditionally offered, face-to-face course. This rule also provides for exceptions to this rule by which non-traditional course formats can reduce the mandated contact hours based upon alternative media usage such as the internet.

Reason for Rule

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (coordinating board) has established set minimum requirements for consistency in generation of semester credit hours. The advent of internet-based distance education and non-traditional forms of classroom education have created alternatives to previously required face-to-face contact hours.

Definitions

Traditionally delivered course – a term to describe a face-to-face course in which students and instructor meet at a regular time over a fifteen-week semester for a total of between 45-48 contact hours.

Procedures and Responsibilities

Texas A&M University shall be guided by the following coordinating board rule concerning the minimum length of courses:

1. The minimum length for traditionally delivered three-semester-hour courses shall be as follows:
1.1 All shortened face-to-face courses shall consist of the same number of class contact hours as similar three hour courses offered in a regular session or summer session: that is, normally 45 to 48 contact hours. Courses shall also have the same objectives, requirements, and quality of instruction as regular length courses.

1.2 Students normally should not carry more courses at a time in shortened format than will give them credit of one semester credit hour per week of instruction.

1.3 A department may offer courses in a non-traditional format, such as through the internet or in a shortened intensive format, which do not meet contact hour requirements if the course has been reviewed by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee and determined to have equivalent learning outcomes to a traditionally offered course.

1.4 All requirements for three-semester-hour courses shall apply proportionately to courses for one, two, four, or other semester-credit-hour values.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules, 19 Tex. Admin. Code § 4.6 Minimum Length of Courses and Limitations on the Amount of Credit that a Student May Earn in a Given Time Period

http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/GeneralPubs/Agenda/Ag2003_01/IXF/IXFRules4.pdf

Contact Office

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