

Policy 4.90 Non-Contact Course Credit

In January 2015, the Policies Committee and the Graduate Council considered and adopted Policy 4.90: Non-Contact Course Credit. That policy reads as follows:

Non-Contact Course Credit is defined as credit hours earned for activities such as laboratory work, studio work, internships, practica, experiential learning activities, independent studies, independent readings, theses, dissertations, and other academic work. Any WSU graduate student engaged in non-contact academic work will receive credit for that work only if it is performed under the supervision of and with approval from a WSU faculty member, with a formal written agreement noting the nature of the academic work and filed with the appropriate program or department. Students engaged in non-contact academic work should typically spend no less than 37.5 hours per semester on that work for each credit hour earned.

Recently it was noted that there is a discrepancy between this policy and the equivalent policy at the undergraduate level. The graduate policy requires a minimum of 37.5 hours per credit hour, while the undergraduate policy requires 45 hours.

It appears that this difference resulted from a simple mathematical error in revising the policy in January 2015. The original policy language for consideration called for “2700 minutes”, which divided by 60 makes 45 hours. The existing language of 37.5 appears to be simply a miscalculation.

Proposal: Change the number 37.5 to 45 in the existing policy language to correct the error and to bring the graduate policy in line with its undergraduate equivalent.