

Proposed New Policy on Credit Hour Maximums

Policy Number	3435
Date Created/Revised	12/11/2024 (UAPC Approved)
Executive Responsibility	Provost Faculty Senate
Functional Responsibility	Registrar Student Success/Academic Advising

3435.01 Undergraduate Students

The normal academic load per semester for a full-time undergraduate student is 15 credit hours. Most of WSU's undergraduate degrees require 120 credit hours and may thus be completed in four years, at an average of 15 credit hours per semester. Some programs require more than 120 credit hours, but may still be completed in four years by taking more than 15 credit hours per semester, or by way of taking summer classes.

The maximum academic load for undergraduate students in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of at least 2.00) is 18 credit hours per semester. Students on academic probation (with a cumulative GPA less than 2.0) may not take more than 15 credit hours per semester.

Students desiring to exceed maximum credit hours may petition for an overload, but only if in good academic standing (with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or greater). The student must meet with their assigned academic advisor, and, if authorized, have the advisor sign a Registration Activity Form, which will then be processed in Enrollment Services. Per-hour rates will be applied to each billable credit hour over 18 hours.

3435.02 Graduate Students

The normal academic load per semester for a full-time graduate student is between 6 and 12 semester credit hours. Most of WSU's graduate degrees require 30 credit hours. Some programs require additional hours.

The maximum academic load for graduate students is 16 credit hours per semester.

Students desiring to exceed maximum credit hours may request an overload, if in good academic standing (with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater), by using the Registration Activity Form. The student must meet with their assigned academic advisor or department chair, and if approved, have the form signed by the College of Graduate Programs and Honor Studies, and then have it processed in Enrollment Services. Per-hour rates will be applied to each billable credit hour over 18 hours.

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Commented [GS1]: Do we need these statements in the policy?

Commented [RL2R1]: I like that it helps students to plan accordingly to stay on track. If removed here, though, I can just add something to the catalog instead.

Commented [GRO3]: IMHO: I think that lowering this threshold from 20 to 18 is a very good idea. Lower might be even better. I would also recommend that they lower it further for Summer A and B intensive courses. I have had many students load up on summer courses, and then complain that they have too much work compressed into six weeks.

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Commented [EK4]: For both undergrads and grads not

Commented [GRO5R4]: This comment is worth a reply

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Commented [GRO6]: There should also be language fo

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Commented [GS7]: I suggest removing these statemen

Commented [RL8R7]: See same comment above in UG

Commented [GRO10R9]: Agreed. It is especially

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Commented [GS11]: Who will send it for processing? I

Commented [LL12R11]: It is the student's responsibili

Commented [RL13R11]: Can you all look at this

Commented [LL14R11]: Not necessarily. It can remain

3435.03 Enrollment at other Institutions or Multiple programs

If students are enrolled in coursework at other SOCHE institutions of higher education while ~~simultaneously~~ enrolled at WSU, the total number of semester credit hours taken ~~can~~ not exceed the maximum specified at WSU.

Commented [SJ15]: Is it "should," or is it a hard rule? And, given comments above, why is this paragraph reappearing?

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