

MEMORANDUM

From: Candace Hetzner, Associate Dean
To: David Quigley, Dean
Subject: GSAS Departments and Federal Credit Hour Regulation

Preliminary Report

The GEPC requested that Graduate Program Directors send an overview of the kinds of courses that they offer, the number of credits, the contact hours, and student workload outside of class. The responses, though not fully complete, are contained on the attached spreadsheet. They are often incomplete because the Graduate Program Directors simply felt unable to speak for other faculty members and their course arrangements. In addition, because so much graduate work involves independent study since we are in the business of developing scholars who can work independently, this is a complicated, though not impossible, accounting task. The social sciences and humanities present the fewest accounting difficulties. The natural sciences require a good deal more analysis and explanation. Students in the natural sciences do much of their academic work in laboratories under the direction of a faculty member. Students in these laboratories often have a lot of faculty contact and put in hours that may be in excess of 60 hours a week. These are fields where a substantial part of the education involves something more akin to apprenticeship than traditional classroom formats.

The most noteworthy features of the overview are two: (1) Most departments offer the relatively the same kinds of courses, seminars, etc. for similar amounts of time and credits. Departments, by and large, are offering 2-2 1/2 hour per week classroom-based activities (Only one department, Sociology, has a field-based experience). What is difficult to assess is how much extra-classroom time the student is investing in courses or interim study or doctoral continuation. (2) Many departments have requirements that bear no credits in which both students and faculty are expending time.

In the fall, the GEPC, working through the graduate program directors, will ask departments for a course-by-course analysis of credits, faculty contact hours, and average student workload (hours) per course. Departments may start to feel overburdened as this request will be added to their on-going assessment responsibilities. The hope is that the course credit analysis as well as the assessment work will complement each other. (I might add that

because the university graduate catalog, including course offerings, is being devolved to the graduate schools and departments this fall, departments might usefully at the same time that they work on assessment and credit hour analysis clean up the public listing of course offerings, i.e., additions and deletions).

I think that that we can suggest that all courses, colloquia and the like be 2 hours or 2 1/2 hours without much resistance. In those cases where faculty members wish to have less classroom time, they will need to justify it. The “Flexibility for Institutions” section of the *Department of Education Guidance to Institutions and Accrediting Agencies Regarding a Credit Hour as defined in the Final Regulation Published October 29, 2010* should enable them to do it. Moreover, the American Council on Education with the support of 70 organizations and associations—among them the Council of Graduate Schools—is presently lobbying Congress to block the credit hour definition regulation. I have attached one of their letters to a member of Congress. Hence, it is possible that the federal credit definition may go away.

Departments	Delivery Mode	Credits	Contact Time	Student Extra-Classroom Workload	Comments
Biology	Core	2 credits	120 minutes per week		
	Electives	3 credits	180 minutes per week	6 hours per week	
	Seminars	3 credits	120 minutes per week	7 hours per week	
	Doctoral Contin.	1 credit			
Chemistry	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Monthly Cumulative Exams	0 credit	2-3 days per year non-classroom time, spent with examiner		
	Weekly research meetings	0 credit	3-4 hours		
	Doctoral Contin. /Laboratories	1 credit	40-60 hours per week		
Earth & Env. Sci.	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Grad. Seminar	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Thesis Seminars	3-6 credits	150 minutes+ per week		
	Readings and Research	3 credits	negotiated		
	Interim Study				
Math	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Teaching and Research Seminar	1 credit			
	Readings and Research	3 credits	120 minutes per week	8-10 hours	
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
Physics	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes per week		

Departments	Delivery Mode	Credits	Contact Time	Student Extra-Classroom Workload	Comments
	Readings and Research	3 credits	negotiated		
	Doctoral Contin. /Laboratories	1 credit			
Psychology	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Advanced Topics	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Special Topics	3 credits	150 minutes per week		
	Research Workshops	3 credits	variable		
	Neuro Science Journal	0 credits	630 minutes per semester		
	Professional Development Workshop	0 credits	240 minutes per semester		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
Economics	Courses	3 credits/4 credits	150/240 minutes per week	9 1/2 hours per week	
	Readings and Research	3 credits	60 minutes per week	11 hours per week	
	Dissertation Workshop		170 minutes per week	5 hours per week	
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
Pol. Sci.	Seminars	3 credits	120-150 minutes per week	6-6 1/2 hours	gradually moving to all 150 minute offerings
	Readings and Research	3 credits	120 minutes per week	6-7 hours	
	Masters Thesis Seminar	6 credits	120 minutes per week	6-7 hours	
	Dissertation Seminar	1 credit	60 minutes	2 hours	

Departments	Delivery Mode	Credits	Contact Time	Student Extra-Classroom Workload	Comments
	Doctoral Comprehensive	1 credit			
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
Sociology	Seminars	3 credits	140/150 minutes per week	6-10 hours	
	Readings and Research	3 credits	15-60 minutes per week	6-10 hours	
	Internship		15 minutes a week	10 hours per week	
	Interim Study	0 credits			
	Doctoral COnTInuation	1 credit			
Classical Studies	Seminars	3 credits	150-220 minutes per week		
	Readings and Research	3 credits	-150 minutes per week		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
English	Courses	3 credits	145 minutes per week		
	Advanced Research Colloquium	1 credit	145 minutes per week		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
History	Colloquia	3 credits	120 minutes per week		
	Seminar	3 credits	120 minutes per week		
	Readings and Research	3 credits	negotiated		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
	Doctoral Continuation	1credit			

Departments	Delivery Mode	Credits	Contact Time	Student Extra-Classroom Workload	Comments
Philosophy	Lectures	3 credits	120-150 minutes per week		
	Seminars	3 credits	120-150 minutes per week		
	Readings and Research	3 credits	90 minutes every other week		
	MA Thesis	6 credits			
	Doctoral Comprehensive Exams	1 credit	16-24 hours per semester		
	Teaching Seminar	0 credit	480 minutes per semester/4 semesters		
	Writing Seminar	0 credit	840 minutes per semester/2 semesters		
Rom. Lang.& Lit.	Seminars	3 credits	110-120+ minutes per week		
	Readings and Research	3 credits	60 minutes per week		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit			
Slav. & E. Lang.	Courses	3 credits	150 minutes		
	Russian and Japanese Courses	4 credits	240 minutes per week		
	Chinese and Arabic Courses	5 credits	300 minutes per week		
	Graduate Seminar	3 credits	140 minutes per week		
	Interim Study	0 credits			
Theology	Courses	3 credits	120-150 minutes per week		
	Seminars	3 credits	120-150 minutes per week		

Departments	Delivery Mode	Credits	Contact Time	Student Extra-Classroom Workload	Comments	
	Doctoral Comprehensives	0 credits	60 minutes per week			
	Doctoral Proposal	0 credits	60 minutes per week			
	Doctoral Continuation	1 credit				