

UCR Division's - SR 760

Designation of Unit Values

The unit value for course offerings is governed by Academic Senate Regulation (SR) 760: *The value of a course in units shall be reckoned at the rate of one unit for three hours work per week per term on the part of a student, or the equivalent.* The UCR Division defines work to include required student-instructor contact time (e.g. lecture, laboratory, discussion) as well as average time spent by students in course-related, required activities (e.g. study, research, fieldwork, homework). Contact hours may occur face-to-face or remotely, facilitated by technology that allows the exchange of ideas in a reasonably fluid manner.

For lectures, discussions, seminars, workshops, colloquia, and consultations, one unit corresponds to one contact hour plus two additional hours of work outside class per week. For laboratory, studio, fieldwork, and independent study courses, one unit corresponds to three contact hours, though in some of these cases students can be required to complete additional independent work (e.g., reading, report writing) with no adjustment of the course units. Additional units of credit may be assigned for courses that demand extensive reading, writing, or other academic work outside of contact time. Justification for such additional units is required; instructors should be mindful that each additional unit represents, on average, three additional hours of work per week. Departments are responsible for submitting course approval requests that include a detailed description of how the unit value is justified. Courses with variable units must specify how each unit value will be assigned.

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