

**PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**I – INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SERVICES POLICIES**  
**I – 60.0 CREDIT HOUR DEFINITION**

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<b>Policy #:</b>	<b>I – 60.0</b>
<b>Effective:</b>	<b>December 2014</b>
<b>Revised:</b>	
<b>Responsible Dept.:</b>	<b>VPISS</b>

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### **Purpose**

To ensure that Piedmont Virginia Community College’s definition of a credit hour is consistent with the federal definition of the credit hour and conforms to the SACSCOC Policy Statement on Credit Hours.

### **Policy**

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) follows the Federal definition of a semester credit hour and VCCS Policy 5.3.02: Course Credits. PVCC defines a “semester credit hour” as being not less than one “academic hour” of formal classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work per week for fifteen weeks, plus a minimum of one hour of evaluation time. An “academic hour” is defined as 50 minutes. The total instructional and evaluation time for one credit hour is 750 minutes plus the minimum 50 minutes of evaluation time for a total of 800 minutes.

One semester credit of lecture-based instruction is defined as one academic hour per week for a fifteen week period plus an academic hour of evaluation time.

One semester credit of laboratory-based instruction, clinical training, supervised work experience, coordinated internship or other similar activities ranges from two to five academic hours per week for a fifteen week period plus an evaluation hour.

One semester credit of asynchronous distance learning or hybrid-based instruction is based on the student learning outcomes being equivalent to the outcomes in the same course taught in a face-to-face section of the same course. This equivalency is determined by a peer review of the content, competency coverage, and student learning outcomes of the course.

Accelerated courses or late start face-to-face courses are required to have the same 800 minutes per credit hour of instructional and evaluation time as traditional face-to-face courses.