

A-111 POST-SECONDARY CREDIT HOURS

Gateway Technical College assigns post-secondary credits based upon the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) definition of credits and potential hours of instruction (PHI), that is, 50-minute instructional periods within an 18-week semester term. Instructional time to credit conversion is based on the type of instruction. For example, in a traditional lecture course, one associate degree credit is granted for eighteen 50-minute periods (900 minutes) of instructor-student contact, with another thirty-six 50-minute hours (1800 minutes) of expected student effort outside the classroom (homework). The WTCS credit hour structure aligns with the Carnegie Unit/Student Hour conventions.

The requirement for regular and substantive student-instructor interaction is a feature that is preserved across all formats of instruction; how that requirement is met will differ across different course formats and modes of instruction. A self-paced or accelerated course format will have distinctive levels of regular and substantive instructor interaction consistent with higher education standards. Substantive interaction may take the form of instructor-guided problem solving or discussion formats. There is no single comprehensive definition for regular and substantive student-instructor interaction.

Traditional Modes of Instruction

The following table provides examples of the types of instruction available in the WTCS and the hours of instruction required to equal one degree credit for the Associate Degree and Technical Diploma programs.

Instruction Type	50-minute Hours of Instruction Equal to 1 Credit			
	Associate Degree		Technical Diploma	
	Instruction	<i>Outside Effort</i>	Instruction	<i>Outside Effort</i>
Type A: Lecture	18	36	36	18
Type B: On-Campus Laboratory	36	18	36	18
Type C: Individualized/ Independent Instruction & Selected Clinical, Extended Laboratory, and/or Shop Experience	54	0	54	0
Type D: Simulated or Actual Occupational Experience	72	0	72	0
Type E: On-the-Job Experiences	216	0	216	0

Other Instructional Methodologies

Gateway offers courses in multiple delivery formats beyond traditional classroom instruction in order to meet the needs of its diverse student population. The following modes of delivery follow the same instructional hour-to-credit conversion as traditional face-to-face courses:

- **Compressed courses** - Total instructional hours delivered in a shortened number of weeks with more weekly hours required.
- **Online courses** - Assigned learning activities, both synchronous and asynchronous, equal to the instructional hours of face-to-face course.
- **Blended courses** - Combined face-to-face instructional hours and assigned synchronous and asynchronous learning activities equal to the instructional hours of face-to-face course.

Additional modes of delivery shift learning activities from the classroom instructional hours to the expected outside effort required of students. Learning outcomes and assessment standards are the same as those of traditional courses.

- **Accelerated Instruction** - Classroom instruction used for group discussion, group presentations, and mini-lectures on content students acquire through outside effort.
- **Directed study** - Reserved for reduced enrollment (2-9 students). Students acquire content through outside effort; classroom time reduced for individual consultation, presentations, and mini-lectures.
- **Independent study** - Instructor contact for design and assessment of individualized learning project assigned to a single student.

The following table shows the required instructional hours to earn one credit for the above modes of delivery:

Instruction Type		50-minute Hours of Instruction Equal to 1 Credit			
		Associate Degree		Technical Diploma	
		Instruction	<i>Outside Effort</i>	Instruction	<i>Outside Effort</i>
Accelerated Instruction	Type A: Lecture	6	48	NA	NA
	Type B: On-Campus Laboratory	12	42	NA	NA
Directed Study 2-5 students	Type A: Lecture	6	48	12	42
	Type B: On-Campus Laboratory	12	42	12	42
Directed Study 6-9 students	Type A: Lecture	12	42	24	30
	Type B: On-Campus Laboratory	24	30	24	30
Independent Study	Type A: Lecture	3	51	6	48
	Type B: On-Campus Laboratory	6	48	6	48

Apprenticeship Instruction

Apprenticeships combine both on-the-job experience and post-secondary classroom instruction; therefore, the credit calculation is different than for other programs and allows for incremental credits rather than whole credits. The following table shows the equivalent hours of instruction needed for each quarter apprenticeship credit according to the WTCS.

Hours of Instruction	Equivalent Credit
1-9	0.25
10-18	0.50
19-27	0.75
28-36	1.00

Gateway also offers pre-college and non-credit instruction below the post-secondary level. Credits for these courses do not count toward post-secondary credentials and cannot be converted to post-secondary credit. Those courses are calculated according to unique systems provided by the WTCS.