**Relevant Regulations: Curriculum**

CR § 50.1(o): Semester hour means a credit, point, or other unit granted for the satisfactory completion of a course which requires at least 15 hours (of 50 minutes each) of instruction and at least 30 hours of supplementary assignments, except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 52.2(c)(4) of this Subchapter. This basic measure shall be adjusted proportionately to translate the value of other academic calendars and formats of study in relation to the credit granted for study during the two semesters that comprise an academic year.

CR § 52.1 (b) (3) To be registered, each curriculum shall: […] show evidence of careful planning. Institutional goals and the objectives of each curriculum and of all courses shall be clearly defined in writing […]. The content and duration of curricula shall be designed to implement their purposes.

CR § 52.2(c): (1) […] the objectives of each curriculum and its courses shall be well defined in writing. Course descriptions shall clearly state the subject matter and requirements of each course. (2) For each curriculum, the institution shall assure that courses will be offered with sufficient frequency to enable students to complete the program within the minimum time for completion, in accordance with paragraphs (6)-(10) of this subdivision.

(5) The institution shall assure that credit is granted only to students who have achieved the stated objectives of each credit-bearing learning activity.

(6) Associate degree programs shall normally be capable of completion in two academic years of full-time study, or its equivalent in part-time study, with an accumulation of not less than 60 semester hours.

(7) Baccalaureate degree programs shall normally be capable of completion in four academic years of full-time study, or, in the case of five-year programs, five academic years of full-time study, or their equivalent in part-time study, with an accumulation of not less than 120 semester hours.

(8) Master’s degree programs shall normally require a minimum of one academic year of full-time graduate level study, or its equivalent in part-time study, with an accumulation of not less than 30 semester hours. Research or a comparable occupational or professional experience shall be a component of each master’s degree program. The requirements for a master’s degree shall normally include at least one of the following: passing a comprehensive test, writing a thesis based on independent research or completing an appropriate special project.

(9) The master of philosophy degree shall require completion of all requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy except the dissertation, and shall require that the student has been admitted to candidacy in a doctor of philosophy curriculum offered by the institution conferring the master of philosophy degree.

Section 3.47: Requirements for earned degrees: C. Undergraduate degrees. Undergraduate degrees shall be distinguished […] by the minimum amount of liberal arts content required for each degree. The required liberal arts core shall not be directed toward specialized study or specific occupational or professional objectives.

D. Graduate degrees: To provide for clear-cut distinctions between graduate academic and professional degrees, the following policies have been established.

1. Academic degrees. Graduate academic degree programs consist of advanced studies in an academic discipline. They must have as their purpose contributions to knowledge of the subject matter, rather than specific applications of knowledge to professional practices. Master's degree programs of this type may be terminal in nature or may also provide an introduction to research and advanced study at the doctoral level. Such programs emphasize theory and are not primarily designed as preparation for professional careers. Graduate academic degree programs leading to the doctorate shall include research that prepares the graduate student for a life of scholarship in an academic discipline.

(see also [Section 3.47. Requirements for Earned Degrees and Section 3.50. Registered Degrees](http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/lrp/chapter_i_of_title_8_of_the_offi.htm))

§145-2.1 (a) For programs at degree granting institutions which measure study in terms of credit hours or a comparable measure, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) For State student financial aid programs, except the supplemental tuition assistance program (STAP), fulltime study, where required by law, shall mean enrollment for at least 12 semester hours for a semester of not less than 15 weeks, inclusive of examination periods; or eight semester hours a quarter; or, in programs not organized on a semester or quarter basis, 24 semester hours for an academic year of not more than 12 months or the equivalent, as determined by the commissioner. A student shall be considered fulltime for a program organized on an academic year basis only if the student has filed a plan of study with the institution for the entire academic year. Except as otherwise defined in paragraph (4) of this subdivision. […]