

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

PROCEDURE

Number: 8.1.10.1
Related Policy: 8.1.10
Title: Classroom and Time Assignment and Class Breaks
Responsibility: Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Last Revision: 10-17-2018

President

I. Length of Academic Semesters

The annual semester calendar at Horry-Georgetown Technical College will consist of:

- A. Two semester terms (fall and spring) of 15 weeks each (14 instructional weeks and 1 exam week);
- B. A summer session or sessions structured according to perceived needs of the academic departments and their students; and
- C. The start and stop date for each term will be determined by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The first semester must end before Christmas.

The annual semester calendar will be prepared by the calendar committee for approval by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the College's Cabinet.

II. Definition of a Semester Credit Hour

The definition of a semester credit hour is:

- A. The instructional hour will be identified as 50 minutes. One semester credit hour will be identified as 750 minutes of classroom instruction or equivalent laboratory time (1 credit hour = 3 lab hours or 2250 minutes) plus an exam period.
- B. The College has the flexibility to use alternative schedules within the term as long as each semester credit granted allows for a minimum of 750 minutes of classroom instruction or an equivalent ratio of laboratory time, plus an exam period.
- C. The College must adhere to the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning non-traditional formats.

When a college offers courses in a concentrated or abbreviated time period, the instruction must demonstrate students in such courses have acquired competencies and levels of knowledge comparable to those required of students taking similar courses in the traditional formats.

- D. Courses offered in non-traditional formats must be designed to ensure students are able to demonstrate evidence of student achievement of learning outcomes for the course. Course assessment should exhibit student learning is equivalent to a seated class with a faculty. At least one calendar week of reflection and analysis should be provided to students for each semester hour of undergraduate credit awarded.
- E. Courses taught through distance learning modalities, have regular and substantive interaction. These scheduled academic activities , which are faculty initiated, offer opportunities for personalized interaction and communication between faculty and students.
- F. Courses offered at the College numbered 001 to 099 earn institutional credits only and require a minimum of 750 minutes of classroom activity for each semester institutional credit granted.
- G. Regardless of the format of the course, it is expected delivery of course materials and student workload expectations align with the student learning outcomes as established in course instructional packets.

III. Classroom and Time Assignments

All classes, day and evening, should meet the required number of hours for which the course is scheduled. Faculty must adhere to the room assignments and to the scheduled beginning and ending times of classes. Faculty should prepare learning experiences that allow the use of the full class period.

No change in the class time shall be made by a faculty without the approval of the appropriate Department Chair. Room assignment changes should be requested through an academic administrative specialist.

IV. Class Breaks

Students should be given the allotted scheduled breaks between classes. Additionally, faculty should give appropriate breaks for any class sessions exceeding 80 minutes.