

6.6.1 Student Course Load

Last Revised: February 2023

Policy: Piedmont Community College (PCC), in an effort to promote student success and satisfactory academic progress, has defined full-time status and maximum course loads.

Purpose/Definitions:

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define student course loads.

Definitions

Full-time student—a student is classified as full-time for a given semester when enrolled in a certain number of semester credit hours in a degree, diploma, or certificate program. For fall or spring semesters, the minimum course load is 12 semester credit hours; for a summer semester*, the minimum is 9 semester credit hours.

* Federal Financial Aid regulations define full-time status for aid at 12 semester credit hours for any semester.

Maximum course load—the greatest number of credit hours for which a student may register without seeking special approval. For fall or spring semesters, the maximum course load is 21 semester credit hours; for a summer semester, the maximum is 12 semester credit hours.

Traditional course load—the number of credit hours recommended for students to attempt each semester to graduate within the proposed time frame for the program of study. For fall or spring semesters, the traditional course load is 15-18 semester credit hours.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College's Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Instruction has monitoring authority for this policy.

Procedure:

Section 1: Registration

- 1.1. A student who desires to register for additional coursework above the maximum indicated for the curriculum must secure a recommendation from the faculty advisor, appropriate instructional dean, and approval from the Vice President, Instruction.
- 1.2. The credit hours earned from enrollment in alternative delivery systems (e.g., independent study, work-based learning) are included in the calculation of student load.
- 1.3. Credit hours earned through credit-by-exam do not count in the calculation of student load.

Legal Citation: Federal Student Aid Handbook – Calculating Awards and Packaging

History: Effective August 1997; Revised October 2001, July 2012, January 2021, February 2023