University of Minnesota Law School  
Faculty Policy on Credit Hours  
Adopted by the Faculty on March 24, 2015, Amended on Oct. 11, 2016

1. This policy covers all law school courses except externships, field placements, and independent research, which are governed by Academic Rule 10.5.

2. The Law School will designate courses as offering a particular number of “credits.”

3. Each credit must reasonably approximate at least:
   
   (a) 700 minutes (11.66 hours) of in-class or direct faculty instruction and 1680 minutes (28 hours) of out-of-class student work;¹ or
   
   (b) for simulation, clinical, and co-curricular courses and other academic work, an equivalent amount of work as in section (a) with an appropriate combination of in-class instruction, direct faculty instruction, and out-of-class student work.

4. If a course meets for more than the minimum number of minutes or requires more than the minimum amount of work, no additional credit will be awarded beyond the approved amount.

5. The Educational Policy Committee will designate the number of credits available for each course. Course proposals must explain expectations for the amount of in-class instruction, direct faculty instruction, and out-of-class work by students. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will periodically review syllabi to determine whether the Committee’s initial credit allocation remains appropriate given the amount and nature of work assigned to students. The Associate Dean will also monitor evaluations in which students report the time they spent on out-of-class work. The Clinic Director will periodically review compliance for clinic courses and the Legal Writing Director will periodically review compliance for legal writing courses.

6. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will schedule courses in a manner appropriate for the designated amount of credits. In a 13 week semester, the following meeting frequencies are typical for courses governed by section 3(a); the indicated class lengths may be extended to allow for rest breaks within class sessions if time and rooms are available. Some scheduling options include sufficient extra minutes of in-class instruction to allow flexibility in rescheduling classes cancelled for unavoidable circumstances.

   - One credit course (requires 700 minutes):
     - 1x/wk (13 total) for 55 minutes (715 minutes)
   - Two credit course (requires 1400 minutes):
     - 2x/wk (26 total) for 55 minutes (1430 minutes)
     - 1x/wk (13 total) for 110 minutes (1430 minutes)
   - Three credit course (requires 2100 minutes):

¹ These guidelines assume that a course requires a final exam lasting at least one hour per credit and for which students will prepare during the exam study period for at least two hours per hour of exam time. If a course does not require an exam (or requires a shorter exam), then the instructor must make additional assignments (readings, exercises, etc.) requiring an amount of time that reasonably approximates the time that students would have spent taking and preparing for an exam.
-3x/wk (39 total) for 55 minutes (2145 minutes)
-2x/wk (26 total) for 85 minutes (2210 minutes)

Four credit course (requires 2800 minutes):
-4x/wk (52 total) for 55 minutes (2860 minutes)
-3x/wk (39 total) for 75 minutes (2925 minutes)
-3x/wk (39 total) for 80 minutes (3120 minutes)
-2x/wk (26 total) for 120 minutes (3120 minutes)

7. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may make interpretations of this policy. The faculty may amend this policy.