

Policy for Determining Credit Hours (Revised 2021)

BMATS defines a credit hour as follows: In accordance with federal government guidelines, BMATS defines a credit hour as 1) the amount of student time investment that reasonably approximates one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work for fifteen weeks for one semester, or 2) at least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in number one for other academic activities including research and writing, ministry projects, interviews, seminars, workshops.

BMATS uses 50 clock minutes as equivalent to one hour as in accordance with commonly accepted practice in higher education. IPEDS defines a credit hour as "a unit of measure representing the equivalent of an hour (50 minutes) of instruction per week over an entire term. It is applied toward the total number of credit hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award" (see *IPEDS 2021-22 Data Collection System*).

Regardless of delivery format, courses must meet the equivalent of hours required in traditional courses. BMATS traditional courses meet for three hours each week for fifteen weeks for a total of 45 hours of classroom instruction. Online classes also meet for fifteen weeks each semester and students are assigned weekly participation using various assignments. The academic school is divided into two semesters, fifteen weeks each with each class meeting three hours per week (see 2021-22 Catalog, p. 35). Beyond the classroom hours, students are expected to spend two hours per credit hour in additional work that may include but is not limited to reading, studying, research and writing, and other learning activities. In courses that are online, they provide both contact with professors and content that maintains the same standards as the traditional on campus courses (see *BMATS Distance Education Guidelines for Faculty*, May 10, 2013; Updated 2017).

Each degree offered by BMATS requires a minimum number of completed semester hours. The MDIV requires 90 hours, the MACM requires 60 hours, the MAPT requires 36 hours, and the MAR requires 36 hours. The BAR and ADIV require 66 hours. Because of the seminary's unique three-tiered curriculum, Graduate projects must show both qualitative and quantitative differences via advanced content and rigor from undergraduate projects such as those that demonstrate higher level learning including advanced levels from Bloom's Taxonomy (see *Guidelines for Insuring Advanced Content in Course Taught with Graduate and Undergraduate Students Simultaneously*).

The seminary intends for this policy to address federal definition of credit hours.