

Course Loads

How many courses (and credit hours) should you take during your first semester? Consider the following:

- ⇒ **Credit hours** tell you how much time you will spend in class each week.
 - Example: If you take 12 credit hours of course work, you will be in class 12 hours or more per week, labs require additional hours.
- ⇒ Plan for **2 hours of study time for each credit hour** of course work.
 - Example: If you take 12 credit hours, you will need to make available an additional 24 hours per week for studying.
- ⇒ Consider **work hours**.
 - Examples: If you are working more than 20 hours per week, you should not take a full class load. If you are working 40 hours or more per week, you should take no more than one or two courses per semester.
- ⇒ Consider time for **family, friends and other relationships**.
- ⇒ Consider **personal, travel, leisure and SLEEP time!!!**



New students often sign up for more courses than they can realistically handle. Consider each of the factors above in deciding on your first-semester course load.



Frequently dropping and retaking courses looks bad on your transcript and leaves you feeling discouraged.



Have a very good first semester by taking a course load that allows you to be successful in each course and provides you with time for a good life beyond your college work!