

Future Generations University Credit Hour Policy

According to the U.S. Department of Education, institutions receiving Title IV Federal Student Aid must demonstrate the assignment of credits in compliance with commonly accepted practice.

Federal Definition of the Credit Hour (34CFR 600.2):

A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, OR
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required outlined in paragraph 1 of this definition for other activities as established by an institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Future Generations University Compliance:

Future Generations University operates under a 16-week semester system, offering the following modalities within this system:

1. 16-week 3-credit courses using online platforms, face-to-face Zoom meetings, and community-based labs
2. 2-week field residential courses, in which 1 credit is offered per week, with a third credit is offered for completing an optional lab following the conclusion of the course
3. Independent study/independent project/internship for 1-5 credits, depending on the size/scope of the project

The 16-week courses combine the use of the online platforms of Moodle LMS and Zoom Video-Conferencing with field-based application and some regional face-to-face meetings. All courses require synchronous class sessions via Zoom as well as completion of online and Community Lab work. Further explanation follows:

- 16-week courses (3 credits) – Weekly synchronous 75-minute Zoom classes, and 7-8 hours per week spent on online assignments and Community Lab activities.
- Field residential courses (2 credits) – Two to three hour-long pre-travel synchronous Zoom classes followed by face-to-face learning in the field, 8-10 hours per day of community engagement, classroom time, peer learning, and reflection. An optional community lab based on learning and experience derived from the course and applied to the student's home community earns an additional credit.
- Independent study/project/internship for which a student works with a Future Generations University faculty member and/or local mentor to complete a project in their community. The student, in consultation with faculty, outlines the proposed time to be spent on the

project, with 48 hours for 1 credit up to 240 hours for 5 credits. At the end of the project, the professor assesses the work and confirms that it meets the required standard.

The Dean's Council, in its curriculum oversight capacity, ensures that the University complies with the Credit Hour Policy.

Future Generations University Credit Assignment Procedures

The Master of Arts in Applied Community Development degree is a minimum of 32 credits. Most students will earn the degree by taking eleven 3-credit courses for a total of 33 credits. Students have the option of taking fewer taught courses and making up the difference by taking one or more residential courses and/or working on an independent study/independent project/internship. Total earned credits must equal a minimum of 32; there is no maximum number of credits for the degree.

Courses are assigned 3 credits according to the University Credit Hour Policy. Faculty design their courses, and the Chief Academic Officer reviews those courses to confirm that they conform to the Credit Hour Policy requiring 9+ hours of work per week/144 hours per semester.

Approved by Dean's Council on 6/14/2019.