

# TRITON COLLEGE BOARD POLICY

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DISTRICT 504**

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **CREDIT HOURS**

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**POLICY 6015**  
**ADOPTED 08/20/13**  
**AMENDED 08/22/23**

Triton College credit-bearing courses, including online courses and hybrid courses requiring both in-person and online participation, and all lab and clinical experiences, are scheduled and conducted in compliance with federal regulation defining the credit hour. A credit hour is an amount of work, represented by course-specific learning outcomes and evidence of student achievement, corresponding to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction requiring a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Scheduling of credit-bearing classroom courses in all formats - weekday, weekend, accelerated, etc. - reflects the credit hour definition established by federal regulation.
2. Credit-bearing online courses require student participation in instructor-led asynchronous or synchronous online learning activities equivalent to a minimum of one hour per week and out-of-class student work equivalent to a minimum of two hours per week for approximately fifteen weeks for each credit hour in compliance with Illinois Community College Board standards. The course must provide opportunity for regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education.
3. Credit-bearing hybrid courses require a combination of in-person faculty instruction and online, instructor led, asynchronous or synchronous learning activities equivalent to a minimum of one hour per week and out-of-class student work equivalent to a minimum of two hours per week for approximately fifteen weeks for each credit hour in compliance with Illinois Community College Board standards. The course must provide opportunity for regular and substantive interaction between students and instructors on a predictable and scheduled basis commensurate with the length of time and the amount of content in the course or competency in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education.
4. Laboratories, clinical laboratories, studio work, internships, practice, and other academic work require at least the equivalent amount of classroom and/or direct faculty instruction and student work as defined in policy above, and out of class student work equivalent to a minimum of one hour per each two hours of labor clinical conducted in class for approximately fifteen weeks per credit hour in compliance with Illinois Community College Board standards.

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5. In the case of Independent Study (an instructor-approved course of study for a single student based on academic work which reflects a reasonable and moderate extension of courses already approved for community college programs) or Individualized Instruction (an instructor-approved method of instruction which provides the means whereby a student may complete a college course at a rate that is determined primarily by the student's ability, motivation, and interest), courses are scheduled and conducted in accordance with the current Faculty Negotiated Agreement and conform to the above established credit hour definition.