

# Credit and Load

## 1. Definition of Credit Hour

A credit hour is a unit of academic work consisting of fifty (50) minutes of lecture, or two (2) or three (3) such periods of laboratory work per week, throughout the standard 15-week semester. In addition to the in-class work, the student is expected to spend two hours outside of class. For terms other than the standard 15-week semester, an equivalent amount of class time is required.

## 2. Enrolled

A student shall be considered to be enrolled at Messiah College if s/he is registered for any credit-bearing course offered by Messiah College or by an off-campus program affiliated with Messiah College. A student shall be considered to be continuously enrolled if s/he is enrolled for consecutive semesters.

## 3. Full-time Status

Students who are enrolled in 12 or more credit hours are considered full-time students, charged at the full-time student rate, and eligible for financial aid as full-time students.

## 4. Part-time Status

Students who are enrolled in less than 12 credit hours are considered part-time students, charged at the part-time student rate per credit hour, and eligible for any financial aid open to part-time students.

## 5. Overload

- a. Policy: Any student taking more than 18 credits per semester must first obtain the approval of the student's advisor and the Registrar. Moderate requests for overloads are generally granted if the student has a GPA of 3.0 or better. Additional tuition at the overload rate for each credit above 18 is charged to the student's account.

Students at Philadelphia do not need permission for their 19th credit, nor are they charged additional tuition. Students who exceed 19 credits while attending Temple University through the Messiah College-Philadelphia Campus will be charged the overload tuition rate for each credit over 19.

In the spring semester, any student taking more than 4 credits in the January term or more than 15 credits in the spring term, must first obtain the approval of his or her advisor and the Registrar. Additional tuition at the overload rate for each credit above 18 is charged to the student's account.

- b. Rationale: The overload registration procedure has been instituted to insure that an assessment of the student's ability to handle an abnormally heavy load is made prior to the student enrollment in the courses. The Philadelphia policy is 19 credits due to the usual credit combinations of Temple and Messiah courses.