

Assignment of Credits

Policy

Definition of a Credit Hour

Red Lake Nation College utilizes the semester system. Semester credits are earned for the completion of a course covering one semester (15 weeks). Each course the college offers has a determined number of credit hours assigned to it. A course credit can range from one-five credits.

One credit hour is defined as three (3) hours of student commitment per week. It has been established that a student will meet a minimum of 50 minutes per week in a face-to-face one-credit course. The total student commitment can be comprised of lectures, labs, field work, recitals, study groups or individual study time. Students should set aside three hours a week per credit hour to successfully complete the student learning outcomes for the course and the assigned course work including lectures. Students enrolled in online and hybrid (combination of face-to-face and online) courses should expect the same time commitment of three hours per week per credit, while realizing that the lecture time may be greatly reduced. For example, a student enrolled in any combination of 15 credit hours at Red Lake Nation College should expect to set aside 45 hours of time for successful course completion.

(RLNC Catalog 2017-2020, p. 42)

Procedure

The Vice President of Operations and Academic Affairs develops the Academic Calendars and course schedules. Academic calendars are reviewed by other administrative team members and faculty members to ensure all courses, regardless of days/times meet the required number of credit hours. In the event the campus is closed for weather-related events or other emergencies, faculty members abide by the E-Learning Policy, as indicated in all course syllabi to ensure all credit hours are met. Syllabi are reviewed every semester by the Curriculum Committee and audited by the Vice President of Operations and Academic Affairs.

E-Learning Days

In the event of an unexpected faculty absence or campus closure, students will participate in an E-Learning Day. Instructions for E-Learning Days will be posted in the announcement section of Canvas for each course.

(Course Syllabi)

Program Length

The lengths of our academic programs at Red Lake Nation College are comparable to similar programs in other institutions of higher education and we follow a semester credit system that is standard for institutions of higher education in the United States. None of our programs require program-specific tuition.

Associates Degrees

All candidates for associate degrees must meet the minimum requirements summarized below. For specific requirements of each degree program, consult the appropriate section of the RLNC Catalog.

Summary of graduation Requirements for Associate Degrees

Credit Requirements

A.A. Liberal Education 62-64 credits

A.A.S. Social and Behavioral Sciences 65-67 credits

Curricular Requirements

Red Lake Nation College follows the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum to ensure the ease of student transfer to other institutions. This requires students to earn a number of credits in each goal area. RLNC also requires culturally-specific courses in addition to general education in order to achieve the mission of the college.

General Education Requirements (40-42)

Goal 1: Communication (9 credits)

Goal 2: Critical Thinking (satisfied in other goal areas)

Goal 3: Natural Sciences (7-8 credits)

Goal 4: Mathematical/Logical Reasoning (3-4 credits)

Goal 5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)

Goal 6: The Humanities and Fine Arts (6 credits)

Goal 7: Human Diversity (3 credits)

Goal 8: Global Perspective (satisfied in other goal areas)

Goal 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility (3 credits)

Goal 10: People and the Environment (3 credits)

Core Requirements (17 credits)

Includes culture and Ojibwemowin language classes

Electives and Specialization Courses

Varies by degree program

Academic Status

The number of credit hours for which a student is officially registered during a semester determines the student's enrollment status. Following is the enrollment status listing for Fall and Spring Semesters:

Full-Time – 12 or more credit hours

Part-Time – Less than 12 credit hours

For academic purposes, students should note that an average of 16 credits must be completed in each semester for four semesters if a 64-credit degree is to be completed in two years (four semesters) of enrollment. To register for 18 or more credits, the student must make application through the Registrar and obtain approval from the Vice President of Operations and Academic Affairs.