

ABA Standard 310 Compliance Policy for Regent University School of Law

In 2014, the American Bar Association (ABA) adopted the federal definition of a credit hour, as required by the U.S. Department of Education. As a University accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Regent University also has adopted this standard university-wide. Based on the federal and SACSCOC standard, a credit hour represents a total of 45 hours of course work for each credit hour (3 hours/credit x 15 weeks). In a traditional classroom course, this assumption is based upon a projection of 1 hour of in-class instruction or other faculty contact and 2 hours of other course-related student work each week. Course-related work outside the classroom can include time in the classroom or other direct student-faculty contact, class preparation time, time invested into completion of assignments, and study time, but does not include time invested into taking a final exam.

The ABA views a 50-minute class as satisfying the weekly hour contemplated, effectively reducing the expected time investment per semester to 42.5 hours. However, the ABA notes that

Standard 310. DETERMINATION OF CREDIT HOURS FOR COURSEWORK

(a) A law school shall adopt, publish, and adhere to written policies and procedures for determining the credit hours that it awards for coursework.

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