



## HOW MANY CREDITS CAN I TAKE?

Every course has a credit value. The credits determine the cost of the course and the expectation of how much time the instructor and student will spend on the course. To determine how many credits you can afford to take, read and work through the following information:

1 credit = approximately 1 hour in class each week

1 hour of class = 2 to 3 hours for preparation (e.g., homework, studying, writing papers)

**Therefore, a 4-credit class would take:**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 4                | hours a week in class   |
| <u>+ 8 to 12</u> | additional hours a week for preparation                         |
| 12 to 16         | total hours needed each week to successfully complete the class |

**Full-time college attendance is 12 to 19 credits.**

**Therefore, the minimum full-time load would take:**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 12                | hours a week in class   |
| <u>+ 24 to 36</u> | additional hours a week for preparation                           |
| 36 to 48          | total hours needed each week to successfully complete a full load |

An associate's degree requires a minimum of 90 credits. To complete an associate's degree in two years, assuming a student doesn't attend in the summer and starts with college-level courses, a student would need to average 15 credits a term. This load would imply a commitment of 45-60 hours a week for school.

If you are working or have other significant time commitments such as your family or commuting to school, plan to balance your responsibilities.

**If your weekly work hours  
or other commitments are:**

40+ hours  
30-39 hours  
20-29 hours  
10-19 hours  
Less than 10 hours

**We recommend:**

6-7 credits  
8-9 credits  
10-12 credits  
12 credits  
15 credits