

NC WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKPACK?



You have plans, right? You've got all the supplies you need (except for books at the moment), and even some goals in mind, but the question now is "How many courses should I take?"

Each course you take is measured in "credit hours", which refer to the number of hours per week that you are in the classroom during an 11-week quarter. Courses range from three to five credit hours. For most courses, you will be in class approximately three times a week. If you take a five-hour class, you might be in class twice weekly for 2-1/2 hours each session, or in class each weekday for one hour.

To earn an associate's degree you must accumulate 90-100 credit hours. That amounts to approximately 20-25 courses in order to graduate in two years.

COURSE LOAD RECOMMENDATIONS

For every hour you spend in class, you should devote at least two hours to study. That ratio may seem unreasonable until you are actually involved either as a part time or fulltime student. Learning how to budget your time will help. (More on that later)

Full-time students enroll in 12 to 18 credit hours per quarter.
Part-time students enroll in 1 to 11 credit hours per semester.

The course load that best suits you depends on a variety of factors, such as other commitments, study skills, time management and self discipline. If you have a full-time or part-time job, that adds even more ingredients to the mix.

EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATIONS

SUGGESTED COURSE LOAD

Working 40 hours per week	5-10 hours
Working 30 hours per week	5-10 hours
Working 20 hours per week	10-15 hours
Working fewer than 20 hours	12-18 hours

STILL CAN'T DECIDE?

It's important to remember that there are only 24 hours in each day and 168 hours in a week. We offer the following questions in a worksheet format to help you make the most of your time.

Number of hours in a week	168
Average number of hours you sleep per night	
Number of hours per week for hobbies, recreation, church, etc., including driving time	
Number of hours per week devoted to eating, watching TV, shopping, driving to and from school and/or work	
Number of hours expended for work or for performing household duties	
Number of credit hours you plan to take	
Time required for study (2x every hour credit hour)	
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS YOU USE PER WEEK	
HOURS REMAINING	

PERSONAL TIME, LIKE HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS OR SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY IS NOT SPECIFIED ABOVE. THAT'S FAIRLY DIFFICULT TO CALCULATE. COLLEGE CAN TAKE UP A BIG CHUNK OF YOUR LIFE, BUT REMEMBER: IT IS NOT YOUR LIFE.