

# Maximum Credit Load – Undergraduate

	<p>Policy identification number: <b>To Come</b>  <b>File: Academic Policies &gt; Academic Standards</b></p> <p><b>Maximum Credit Load – Undergraduate</b></p> <p>Policy Summary</p> <p><b>This policy limits the number of credits bachelor’s degree candidates can register for in a single semester.</b></p>
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Policy Owner	Approval Date	Effective Date
<b>Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs</b>	<b>August 31, 2021</b>	<b>Fall 2021</b>

Search Terms	Scheduled for Review
<b>vpaa, provost, maximum, credit, load, undergraduate, m</b>	<b>Fall 2026</b>

## I. Policy Statement

No bachelor’s degree candidate may register for more than 22 credits at Fort Lewis College in a Fall or Spring semester or 6 credits at Fort Lewis College in a Summer semester (any combination of terms 1 to 5). Likewise, no bachelor’s degree candidate may register for more than 8 credits in any ONE Summer term. Exceptions to this policy will be granted for internships only - students should submit a Credit Overload Petition through the Registrar’s office.

## II. Implications

This policy will delay graduation for students planning on taking more than 22 credits in a regular term or 16 credits in a summer semester.

## III. Consideration of Appeals and Petitions

The Maximum Credit Load policy may not be appealed or waived.

## IV. Reason for Policy

Higher Learning Commission: HLC monitors the number of students who take more than normal credit loads. HLC also verifies that the amount of in-class and out-of-class work required per credit follows good practice.<sup>[1]</sup>

Institutional: Fort Lewis strives to offer rigorous courses. Rigor requires, among other things, a serious level of student engagement outside of class. The standard benchmark for rigorous courses is two hours outside of class for every hour inside of class. A 15-credit load, therefore, should require approximately 45 total hours of work per week. Given this assumption, it is unreasonable to expect a student to complete more than 22 credit hours in a fall or spring semester (i.e. 66 total hours each week) or 16 credits in a summer semester.

<sup>[1]</sup> This information was provided by Karen Solinski, VP for Legal and Governmental Affairs for HLC at a session entitled “Preparing for the Credit Hour Review,” on April 9, 2013 at a Higher Learning Commission conference.

## V. Responsibilities

**For following the policy:** Bachelor's degree candidates

**For enforcement of the policy:** Registrar

**For oversight of the policy:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**For notification of policy:** Registrar

**For procedures implementing the policy:** Policy Librarian

## VI. Definitions

**Bachelor's Degree Candidate:** Undergraduate students pursuing their first bachelor's degree and post-baccalaureate students pursuing a second or subsequent, non-duplicative, bachelor's degree who are attending less than half time, half time, three quarters time, or full time.

## VII. Revision History

This policy revises the Maximum Credit Load policy approved by Faculty Senate on March 14, 2014 by eliminating the need for advisor approval if a student would like to register for 19 to 22 credits in a Fall or Spring semester or 13 to 16 credits in a Summer semester. It also establishes a maximum load limit of 8 credits in any ONE Summer term.

August 2021 revision - eliminates the need for advisor approval between 19 and 22 credit hours and establishes a maximum credit hour load limit of 8 credits in any ONE summer term

