

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this academic policy statement is to regulate courses offered for academic credit by Sam Houston State University that are delivered in formats that are shorter than semester or summer term length.

2. GUIDELINES

2.01 Sam Houston State University may deliver shortened format courses, defined as academic credit courses in formats that are shorter than semester or summer term length.

2.02 Enrollment in shortened format courses must follow the same standards as all regular semester courses. Because of the shortened format, administrative issues such as drop and withdrawal dates, tuition refunds, and grade submission deadlines must be established and approved by the appropriate administrative offices prior to the beginning of any course. As appropriate, the academic calendar, academic catalog, and course syllabi must explicitly detail drop dates, withdrawal dates, and/or tuition refunds.

2.03 Chapter III, Paragraph 5.19, of the *Rules and Regulations*, The Texas State University System states:

The Components shall not offer or allow a student to register for any short courses (any course taught over a period of less than three weeks) where the combined academic credit to be earned for all course work attempted would exceed an average of one semester credit hour per contact week.

2.04 Shortened format courses offered for credit by Sam Houston State University must consist of the same number of class contact hours as similar courses offered in a semester or summer term.

- a. A three-semester credit hour course must have a minimum of forty-five contact hours. All requirements for three-semester credit hour courses shall apply proportionally to courses for one, two, four, or other credit hour values.
- b. No three-semester credit hour courses shall consist of fewer than nine (9) days of classes offered over not less than three weeks.

*Effective January 2018, Academic Policy Statements will be reviewed on a rotating 5-year schedule. To transition to a distributed review load, some policies may be reviewed prior to the 5-year timeframe, with subsequent reviews transitioning to the 5-year schedule.