

What is Your Timeline?

THE CREDIT: A WORKING DEFINITION

The number of course credits is generally the number of lecture hours per week a class meets. Classes that have labs meet more hours.

For each unit you take, count on 2 or 3 hours of outside study per week. You must, therefore, manage your class and study time carefully. Keep in mind your employment and other personal responsibilities.

HOW MANY CREDITS SHOULD YOU TAKE?

Some common-sense guidelines...

If employed and work	Take no more than...
40 hours per week	6 credits
30 hours per week	9 credits
20 hours per week	12 credits
5 to 15 hours per week	14 - 16 credits
“Full-time” Student Status	12 or more credits

HOW MANY CREDITS FOR HOW LONG?

Taking a set number of credits each semester, how long should it take you to achieve a Black Hawk College college degree or certificate – or even a 4-year transfer college degree?

	Certificate	Associate Degree	Bachelor Degree
One Class Per Semester (3 credits)	5 years	7-10 years	13-20 years
Two Classes Per Semester (6 Credits)	2-3 years	5 years	10 years
Three Classes Per Semester (9 Credits)	1 ½ - 3 years	3 years	6-7 years
Four Classes Per Semester (12 Credits)	1-2 years	2 ½ years	5 years
Five Classes Per Semester (15 Credits)	1 year	2 years	4 years