Meaning of a Credit Hour in the School of Music

Private Lessons

All students must audition before taking private lessons for college credit.

Applied lessons are available for 1, 2, or 4 credits per semester.

Lessons for 1 credit:

Lessons for 1-credit are intended for music minors or students taking lessons as an elective.

A 1-credit lesson is a 30-minute lesson once a week, with the student expected to practice 30 minutes each day. These lessons typically do not require recital attendance or a jury.

Lessons for 2 credits:

The 2-credit lesson is the standard music major lesson. Each student receives a one-hour lesson per week and is expected to practice up to 2 hours per day to prepare. This level of lesson requires a jury performance, student recital attendance, and often repertoire class participation.

Lessons for 4 credits:

This is an upper level (3000-4000) lesson reserved for performance majors. The lessons are still once a week for an hour, but the student is expected to perform more advanced repertoire, perform in public more frequently, and perform at a more advanced level.

These students typically are expected to practice up to 4 hours or more per day.

Ensembles/Class Piano/Pedagogy/Methods Courses

Ensembles and other skill development classes like those listed above typically meet the same amount of time as a traditional 3 credit hour college course (MWF for 55 minutes) but only receive 1 credit. The justification for this is that these are more like lab classes and require a lesser degree of work outside of class. These types of courses at music schools typically carry this 1 credit distinction so WSU is no different than many other programs.

Conducting and other Special Courses

These courses also meet the standard course meeting times but receive 2 credits.

The rationale is similar to the types of classes above, but have a greater degree of outside independent work required.

Music Theory/Music History

These are examples of music courses that follow the university guidelines for credit and time. They meet on the university schedule grid and carry 3 credits. Students are expected to spend at least 3 hours each week in study and preparation.