



AOP 12.22: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COURSE LOAD

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to establish the policy regarding undergraduate student course load at Mississippi State University.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

The following limits will apply to enrollments in full-semester and shortened format terms. Any exceptions to the course load limits defined below require the approval of the student's Advisor, Department Head (or equivalent), and Academic Dean:

1. Fall or Spring Semester

- a. Students who are in good academic standing can take a total of up to 19 credit hours during the fall or spring semester. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 19 credit hours.
- b. Students who are not in good academic standing (see AOP 12.15 Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal for Undergraduate Students) are limited to an enrollment of 16 credit hours total during the fall or spring semester. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 16 credit hours.
- c. An entering first-year student who is required to take appropriate remedial and/or learning skills courses in accordance with IHL Policy 608 should schedule those courses within the first two semesters of enrollment. These students should be limited to an enrollment of 16 credit hours. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 16 credit hours.

2. Summer Session:

- a. Students who are in good academic standing can take up to 12 hours total during the summer terms so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the summer session does not exceed 12 hours.
- b. Students who are not in good academic standing can take up to 10 hours in the summer terms so long as the equivalent clock hours during any week of the summer session does not exceed 10 hours.

3. Maymester and Winter Intersessions

- a. Students must be in good academic standing and have completed 12 credit hours at MSU to enroll in the Maymester and Winter intersessions, and they are limited to a total of 4 credit hours in each intersession.

Guidance material for credit hour combinations in overlapping parts of term are published at: <https://www.policies.msstate.edu/policy/1222>.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years (or whenever circumstances require an earlier review) by the Executive Vice Provost with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED BY:

/s/ Peter Ryan 9/24/2025
Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Date

/s/ David Shaw 10/20/2025
Provost and Executive Vice President Date

/s/ Stacy Haynes 9/12/2025
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham 10/23/2025
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness Date

/s/ Joan Lucas 10/23/2025
General Counsel Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mark E. Keenum 1/30/2026
President Date