

Federal Compliance

Credits, Program Length, and Tuition

Credits

Webster University offers graduate and undergraduate courses primarily of 8, 9, and 16 weeks duration. The office of Academic Affairs has established clear criteria for the minimum number of contact hours for each format as follows:

Traditional (Daytime) Schedules:

Includes daytime courses scheduled in formats of multiple meetings per week in either the semester (16 weeks) or term (8/9-weeks) sessions.

- 1) Semester courses (16 weeks)

Minimum of one contact hour per week per credit hour. A three-credit course requires three contact hours per week for the duration of the semester.

- 2) Term courses (8 weeks)

Minimum of two contact hours per week per credit hour. A two-credit course requires four contact hours per week for the duration of the term.

Accelerated (Evening) Schedules:

Includes evening courses scheduled in the accelerated eight or nine-week format with a single class meeting per week.

- 1) Term Courses (8/9 weeks)

Four contact hours per week per three-credit hour course. A three-credit course requires four contact hours per weekly session for the duration of the eight or nine week term.

- 2) Interim/Weekend Courses (flexible formats)

Minimum of twelve contact hours per credit hour. A three-credit course requires a minimum of 36 contact hours to be scheduled within this flexible format.

The university equates these learning experiences with semester hours.

Transcripted courses that provide narrative evaluation or simply list courses completed are rarely encountered and normally are found within our international student population. As an international university, Webster has policies and processes that support academic mobility and credit transfer between educational institutions and systems that differ in documentation practices. Webster transfers and translates transfer credit into semester hours based on the following principles:

1. One year of full-time academic study at one accredited/recognized educational institution is the equivalent of one year of full-time academic study at another accredited/recognized educational institution at the same level of education.

2. Webster recognizes the academic integrity of Accredited/recognized institutions of tertiary education. Credit awarded by such institutions will be honored, so long it fits with Webster's transfer credit policies.

3. Accredited/recognized institutions of tertiary education across the globe assess learning activities in a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods; to translate such methods into traditional American-style A-F grades on a 4-point scale would be arbitrary at best. Therefore, the grade of "CR" is assigned to transfer successful transfer course that utilize a non-standard grading system. Such grades are not considered in Webster GPA calculations.

Given the above principles, we consider an institutions academic calendar, it's grading practices, it's credit or unit designation, its graduation requirements, and its designation of a full-time student load, and apply a mathematical formula to determine credit hours assigned for each course. We use a variety of national and international resources endorsed by professional organizations such as AACRAO and NAFSA, that inform our process.

Program Length

Traditional Undergraduate degree programs at Webster University are 128 credit hours in length. This program length falls within the generally recognized range of 120 to 130 credit hours common to most institutions of higher education.

Graduate degree program lengths vary slightly depending upon the degree in question. The predominant program length is 36 credit hours however specialized programs may be longer (MBA – 48 hours, Counseling – 60 hours, Nurse Anesthetist – 75 hours). Again, these program lengths are within the range of credit hour expectations for similar programs in other accredited institutions.

Tuition

Webster University offers classes in more than 100 locations around the world in a variety of degree programs. Accordingly, tuition rates may vary somewhat depending upon location, program, and other circumstances (ie Military personnel, MAT alumni). The complete tuition schedule for domestic campuses for the 2006-07 academic year is listed below as an illustration:

M.A., M.S., M.S.N., M.B.A., M.H.A., M.F.A., M.M., and D.Mgt.

Tuition per credit hour

Students enrolled at Webster University metropolitan campuses or nonmilitary locations outside the St. Louis area (excluding Irvine and San Diego) \$410

Students enrolled at St. Louis area campuses (except doctoral students and other specialized degree areas)

\$490

Students enrolled at the Irvine and San Diego campuses \$455

Active duty military enrolled at military locations \$285

Other students enrolled at military locations* \$315

Students enrolled in the doctorate program \$555

Active duty military enrolled in online courses \$378

Students enrolled in online graduate courses \$540

*Reservists and retired military, federal and contract employees of the installation and dependents of active duty military may be eligible for a reduced tuition rate at on-base, in-class courses.

Reduced Fees for Military Personnel:

By formal contract, active duty military enrolled at military locations are eligible for reduced tuition fees, including online courses. With documented eligibility, selective reservists and retired military, federal and contract employees of the installation and dependents of active duty military enrolled at military locations are also eligible for a reduced tuition rate for on-base, in-class courses only.

M.S. in Nurse Anesthesia

Tuition (per term, excludes fees) \$4,020

M.A.T. and Ed.S.

Tuition per credit hour

Tuition (St. Louis) \$410

M.A.T. online courses \$460

In-service courses \$62–\$286

M.A.T. alumni \$246

M.A.T. extended sites \$265–\$355

Students enrolled in the education specialist (Ed.S.) program \$275

Reduced Fees for M.A.T. Graduates:

Graduates of the Webster University master of arts in teaching (M.A.T.) program may enroll in M.A.T. classes as M.A.T. alumni for a special fee per credit hour. Under certain circumstances in which enrollment is limited, current degree-seeking students are given priority. This tuition reduction is not applicable to Online, In Service and off-campus courses.

M.A.T. alumni are limited to 6 credit hours per semester. M.A.T. graduates who are working toward a second M.A.T. degree or an advanced graduate certificate may take only 6 credit hours at reduced tuition as part of these programs. The remaining credit hours must be taken at regular tuition rates.

M.A.T. alumni pay full tuition for M.A.T. in-service education courses.

Undergraduate

Undergraduate tuition for *full-time* students carrying 13 to 18 credit hours will be \$9,120 per semester or \$18,240 per academic school year. Students who enter the *theatre conservatory* as degree-seeking students in the 2006-2007 academic year will pay \$10,805 per semester or \$21,610 per academic school year. Students carrying more than 18 credit hours will be assessed an additional charge of \$465 per credit hour. Full-time students whose records warrant approval of an academic overload must obtain written authorization from the Academic Advising Center.

Part-time undergraduate students will be charged at the rate of \$465 per credit hour for the home campus and the St. Louis area campuses—Old Post Office, West Port, and WingHaven. Undergraduate students at the Kansas City, Orlando, San Diego, and South Carolina metropolitan campuses will be charged at the rate of \$325 per credit hour.

Students enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses will be charged at the rate of \$405 per credit hour for the home campus.

The Theater Conservatory, Nurse Anesthetist, and Doctorate of Management, carry program specific tuition charges. An explanation of the rigors of each program which explain the program specific tuition charges follows.

Conservatory : The Conservatory at Webster is a professional training program for acting, musical theatre, directing, design, technical theatre and stage management. Located in St. Louis, the conservatory has been training theatre students for the professional world for over half a century. By means of intensive coursework and a rigorous production schedule, we provide a realistic look at the world of professional theatre.

We select our students through auditions and theatre festivals nationwide. We also host auditions here on campus. All of our candidates for admission must complete the audition/portfolio review process to be considered.

One of the distinguishing elements of Webster's Conservatory is its integrated association with two professional companies on our campus: The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Nurse Anesthetist : The Master of Science (M.S.) in Nursing Anesthesia program teaches students about the art and science of anesthesia. Individuals develop expertise in this evolving profession through a holistic and complex integration of affective, cognitive, and psychomotor skills. The philosophy of Webster University's nurse anesthesia program is that graduate education is fundamental to preparation for practicing as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Webster University also believes that the profession of anesthesia requires a scientific and dynamic approach to assist in the return to health. The professional nurse anesthetist provides a variety of health services to individual patients, including assessment, planning, implementation, directing, and evaluating the care process. Because strong moral, ethical, and legal codes are fundamental to the practice of nurse anesthesia, these issues are examined at length as part of the coursework as well.

The art and science of anesthesia are dynamic and require continued educational endeavors to stay abreast of current theory. Therefore, the nurse anesthetist must recognize the need to enhance one's knowledge and improve one's skills as a lifelong endeavor in the discipline of nurse anesthesia.

(Additional expenses included in tuition charges under this program include: housing for out of town rotations, professional liability insurance, drug screens, specialized examinations, recertification coursework, and a stipend to attend the AANA Annual Meeting)

Doctorate of Management: Moderately selective in terms of admission, the Doctorate of Management program carries a distinctive level of prestige. It is

expected that by the fourth term of any given cohort, there will be no more than 12 students per course section. The intense nature of this program, in concert with close faculty contact, places a unique burden on instructors. Assignments are more complex than in the MBA program and therefore require additional grading time. Further, each course is taught only once per year which results in low economies of scale in terms of preparation. Finally, the supervision of doctoral projects adds to the demands on an instructor's time.

Institutional Compliance with the Higher Education Reauthorization Act

Attached to this report are copies of :

Program Participation Agreement
Eligibility and Certification Renewal
A-133 Audit Reports
Cohort Default Rates, FY 2002 – FY 2004

Administration of federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs is a complex task that involves the cooperation of various entities across the university. Annual, independent audits required by federal regulation seldom produce significant issues or concerns with the institution's compliance with applicable laws, regulations and rules. On the rare occasion that a significant finding is made the university acts decisively to address and correct any deficiency in its processes. Consequently, the university has not been subjected to any limitation, suspension, or termination actions by the U.S. Department of Education or any other applicable authority.

Default Rate

Webster University's official cohort default rate, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Education for the last three years have been below 2%.

FY 2002 : 1.4%
FY 2003 : 1.2%
FY 2004 : 1.0%

These rates are well below the levels that would trigger any limitation, suspension, or termination proceedings. Indeed these default rates are low enough that the university is exempt from various federal regulations (delayed disbursements for first-time borrowers, multiple disbursements for single term loans, etc.).

School As Lender

Because the university's cohort default rate is below 10%, we are eligible to operate as a lender under the Federal Family Educational Loan Programs (FFELP) and have chosen to do so. Per federal regulation, the revenue generated under the School as Lender program

are used to cover administrative costs, reduce loan fees otherwise charged to students, and to fund need based grants.

Lender Relations

In recent days there has been a variety of investigations by states' Attorney Generals, U.S. Senators, and other governing authorities into potential problems in the relationships between student loan providers and school personnel. To date, Webster University has been asked to provide information to a variety of these constituencies and has complied without any resultant call for corrective action.

In summary the university believes itself to be currently in compliance with the multitude of requirements and regulations surrounding its administration of student aid programs. Given the complexity of aid programs and the unique nature of its multi-campus operation, isolated incidences of non compliance may occasionally arise but are normally minor in nature. The university is vigilant in looking for potential compliance problems and proactive in addressing them when they arise so that students and their families can rely upon student aid to assist them in fulfilling their educational goals.

(Federal Compliance Visits to Off-Campus Locations)

Advertising and Recruitment Materials

A comprehensive listing of advertising and recruitment materials in which the university's affiliation with the Commission is mentioned is attached to this report. The university only makes reference to its affiliation with the Commission in printed materials and does not do so in other advertising and recruitment venues (billboards, radio advertisements, etc.). In each instance the Commission's web address and local telephone number is listed.

Professional Accreditation

Requirements of Institutions Holding Dual Institutional Accreditation

(Institutional Records of Student Complaints)

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