

2.7.1

Program Length

The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. If an institution uses a unit other than semester credit hours, it provides an explanation for the equivalency. The institution also provides a justification for all degrees that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.

Judgment

Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Not Applicable

Narrative

Currently, Tennessee Technological University (TTU) requires at least 120 semester credit hours for baccalaureate degrees and at least 30 semester credit hours for all graduate degrees. The change to 120 hour baccalaureate curricula was mandated by the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) and conforms to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requirements. Programs requiring more than the minimum number are indicated in bold within Tables 1 and 2. Since all programs meet the minimum required number of semester credit hours, justification of program equivalency is not applicable.

Definition of Credit Hour

TTU is organized on a semester basis. When the terms "hour" or "credit" are used, they refer to a semester hour credit. One semester hour of credit requires one hour (55 minutes) of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks.

Two or more hours of laboratory or studio work are required per hour of credit. An equivalent amount of work is required for practica and other academic activities that award credit. Summer, intersession or other alternate course formats require the equivalent amount of work per credit hour. Laboratory hours per credit are determined by the department or college. Semester credit hours earned in courses such as internships, research, theses, dissertations, study abroad, etc. are based on outcome expectations established by the academic program [1].

Program Development and Approval Process

Quality control of curriculum development and changes occurs at three levels within the University for both undergraduate and graduate curricula. Undergraduate proposals originate within departments and pass through their respective college curriculum committees, which are comprised of individuals representing each department in that college. A college committee may approve or reject a proposal based on its merits. If rejected, a proposal is returned to its department for further consideration. When approved at the college level, a proposal is subjected to final scrutiny by the University Curriculum Committee, which is comprised of chairs from each department in the University.

Graduate proposals follow a similar pathway in that they originate from individual departments and pass through a college's curriculum committee. However, instead of moving to the University Curriculum Committee, graduate proposals go to the Graduate Studies Executive Committee, which is comprised of 23 members from the faculty, various administrators, and four graduate students from departments and colleges that offer graduate degrees. These persons are invited by the President to

serve on the Committee usually for a two-year term.

Once approved by the respective committees, proposals must be submitted to the Academic Council and then to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The provost's office then sends proposals to the TBR for staff approval and notification [2].

Undergraduate Degrees

All baccalaureate degrees require a minimum of 120 semester credit hours [3], including 36 hours of 3000 and 4000 level upper-division credit approved courses. No more than 33 semester credit hours may be earned by correspondence, workshop, or extension, or by a combination of these and special examination. No more than 12 semester credit hours of music ensembles, Physical Education 1010-1990, Military Science activity courses, or other activity courses can be counted toward baccalaureate degree requirements. All students transferring from two-year institutions must complete a minimum of 60 semester credit hours at a senior institution to complete the baccalaureate degree [4]. The table below lists baccalaureate degrees offered at TTU.

Table 1. Baccalaureate Degrees Offered at TTU
(All degrees require 120 semester credit hours to complete unless otherwise noted.)

College	Department / School	Degrees Offered	Concentrations / Options	Credit Hours
Agriculture & Human Ecology	Agriculture	B.S.A.G.	12	120
	Human Ecology	B.S.H.E.	7	120
Arts & Sciences	Biology	B.S. (Biology)	7	120
		B.S. (Wildlife and Fisheries Science)	3	120
	Chemistry	B.S.	3	120
		Non-degree Pre-Professional Program	10	120
	Communication	B.S.	2	120
	Earth Sciences	B.S. (Geosciences)	4	120
	English	B.A.	4	120
	Foreign Languages	B.A.	3	120
		B.S. (International Business and Cultures)		120
	History	B.A.		120
		B.S.		120
	Mathematics	B.S.		120
	Physics	B.S.	2	120
	Sociology and Political Science	B.S. (Sociology)	3	120
		B.S. (Political Science)	2	120
		B.S. (Psychology)		120
Business	Accounting	B.S.B.A.		120
	Decision Sciences and Management	B.S.B.A.	5	120
	Economics, Finance, and Marketing	B.S.B.A. (Economics)		120
		B.S.B.A. (Finance)		120
		B.S.B.A. (Marketing)		120

		B.S. (International Business and Cultures)		120
Education	Art	B.F.A.	8	120
	Curriculum and Instruction	B.S.	5	120
		B.S.E.D.	14	120
		B.S.E.D. (Science)	4	120
		B.S.E.D. (Social Studies)	4	120
		B.S. (Special Education)	7	120
		B.S. (Multidisciplinary Studies)	4	120
		B.S. (Child and Family Studies)	2	120
	Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness	B.S.	7	120
	Music	B.M.	2	120
Engineering	Chemical Engineering	B.S.CH.E.		128
		B.S.CH.E. (Bio-Molecular)	1	128
	Civil and Environmental Engineering	B.S.C.E.		128
	Computer Science	B.S.	2	120
	Electrical and Computer Engineering	B.S.CMP.E. (Computer Engineering)		128
		B.S.E.E. (Electrical Engineering)		128
		B.S.E.E. (Electrical Engineering, Mechatronics)		128
	Mechanical Engineering	B.S.M.E.		128
		B.S.M.E. (Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics)	1	128
	Manufacturing and Engineering Technology	B.S.E.T.		120
Interdisciplinary Studies	Professional Studies	B.S.	4	120
	Professional Studies (RODP)	B.S.		120
	Environmental and Sustainability Studies	B.S.	5	121
	Interdisciplinary Studies	B.S.		120
Nursing		B.S.N.		120
		R.N./B.S.N.		120

Each institution in the TBR System shares a common lower-division general education core curriculum of 41 semester credit hours for all baccalaureate degrees [5]. The general education core curriculum consists of the following subject categories:

Communication	9 hours
Humanities and/or Fine Arts	9 hours
(At least one course must be in literature.)	
Social/Behavioral Sciences	6 hours
History	6 hours
Natural Sciences	8 hours
Mathematics	3 hours
Total	41 hours

Graduate Degrees

Graduate programs of study are individually planned for each student based on educational background and career objective [6]. Students must complete a minimum of 30 semester credit hours for master's degree programs that require completion of a thesis, or a minimum of 33 semester credit hours for nonthesis master's degrees. However, the nonthesis Master of Business Administration requires only 30 semester credit hours, and the Master of Art program in Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness requires only 30 semester credit hours for both thesis and nonthesis options. The Master's Program in Educational Psychology within the Department of Counseling and Psychology requires 30 semester credit hours for the nonthesis option and 33 semester credit hours for the thesis option. At least 70 percent of the semester credit hours to be counted toward a master's degree must consist of credit for courses at the 6000 level or above. Remaining courses that are listed as 4000 (5000) may only be taken at the 5000 level for graduate credit, with graduate credit earned on the basis of additional work required by the instructor.

The Specialist in Education degree requires an additional 30 semester credit hours beyond the master's degree in approved upper-level courses. At least 15 semester credit hours must be from 7000 level courses, and no courses below the 6000 level will count toward the degree unless permission is granted by the student's advisory committee, the department chairperson of the student's major department, and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

Degree requirements for the doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) are determined by the college or departments offering the degree. The table below lists all graduate degrees offered by TTU [7].

Table 2. Graduate Degrees Offered at TTU.








College	Department/ School	Degrees Offered	Concentrations/ Options	Credit Hours
Arts and Sciences	Biology	MS		30
	Chemistry	MS		30
	English	MA		30
	Mathematics	MS	2	30/33*
Business	Business Administration	MBA (on- campus and distance-based)	5	30
Education		PhD (Exceptional Learning)	4	78-79
	Counseling and Psychology	MA (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	School Psychology depending on optional thesis	30-33
		MA (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	School Guidance Counseling depending on optional thesis	48-51
		MA (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	Educational Psychology depending on optional thesis	30-33
		MA (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	Mental Health Counseling	60
		MA (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	Case Management and Supervision	42
		EdS (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	Agency Counseling	30
		EdS (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	School Psychology	30
		EdS (Educational Psychology and	Educational Psychology	

		Counselor Education)		30
		EdS (Educational Psychology and Counselor Education)	School Counseling	30
	Curriculum and Instruction	MA	10 depending on optional thesis	30-33
		MA (Instructional Leadership)		30
		EdS	9	30
		EdS (Instructional Leadership)		30
	Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Wellness	MA	5	30
Engineering		PhD		72
	Chemical Engineering	MS		30
	Civil Engineering	MS	3	31/34*
	Computer Science	MS	2	31/34*
	Electrical and Computer Engineering	MS	6	30/34*
	Mechanical Engineering	MS	5	30/33*
Interdisciplinary Studies	Environmental Studies	PSM (Professional Science)	2	33
		PhD (Environmental Sciences)	2	61
	Professional Studies	MPS (RODP)	3	33
	Advanced Studies in Teaching & Learning	Med	1	33
Nursing		MSN (RODP)	4 depending on concentration	34-46
* thesis/non-thesis				

Conclusion

TTU offers degree programs based on at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level and at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. TTU does not offer any degree programs that require fewer semester credit hours than 120 semester credit hours at the baccalaureate level or 30 semester credit hours at the post-baccalaureate level. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Core Requirement 2.7.1.

Sources

-  [1] Definition of Credit Hour Policy 222
-  [2] Approval of Academic Programs Units and Modifications Policy 224
-  [3] Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation Policy 260
-  [4] Academic Credit from Other Institutions Policy 261
-  [5] University Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree
-  [6] General Graduate Degree Requirements Policy 271
-  [7] THEC Academic Inventory