

Enhancement Option #7: Additional hour(s) in class, lab or studio.

Corresponding COMAR requirement for one credit hour (COMAR regulation .16.C.1.a.) for additional hour(s) of class: Additional 15 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.

Corresponding COMAR requirement for one credit hour (COMAR regulation (.16.C.1.b.) for additional hour(s) of lab or studio: Additional 30 hours per semester of supervised, documented learning.

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This option for achieving the 4th credit hour might be an excellent choice for certain courses, particularly art studio courses or others that have—or once had—a tradition of meeting for a 4th hour (such as selected language courses, once upon a time). This said, however, adoption of this enhancement option on any sort of wide scale would be profoundly problematic, given the rather obvious space and scheduling difficulties that would be involved were a significant number of courses to go this route.

From the outset of planning for the reform, even as the reform's first proposal was being put together, it has always been assumed that only a very small minority of courses—say, 5%—would add “seat” time as the way to achieve the 4th credit. This is in part because of the aforementioned space/scheduling problems, but also because a key element of the reform has been enhancing our students' engagement in more *independent* (outside-of-class) *learning*, which also frees students from a one-to-one seat/credit-hour ratio, which allows them more time to focus on and engage in the very type of work and learning activity the reform seeks to promote. For these reasons, both practical and philosophical, adoption of this enhancement option should be viewed as a true exception.

Should more than 5% select this option, the Fulton School may have to assign particular classrooms and schedules for selecting this enhancement. This would ensure maximum space utilization and the least disruption of regularly scheduled classes.