



Weighted Semester Credit Hours

Background

Weighted semester credit hours are the primary factor for formula funding for Public Universities.

When our students are officially enrolled in courses as of the official census date, the semester credit hours (SCH) generated are reported to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The semester credit hours are then multiplied by two factors:

1. A weight factor based on the lesser of the student level and the course level and the assigned program area for the course.
2. A teaching supplement is applied if the instructor of record for an undergraduate course is tenured or on tenure track. In this case, the SCH are multiplied by a factor determined by the legislature, currently set at 1.10. That is a 10% premium was placed on undergraduate courses taught by tenured or tenure track faculty.

Using the multipliers above, the THECB calculates the weighted semester credit hours (WSCH) for each institution. Each institution receives a general revenue appropriation based on a designated dollar amount multiplied by the WSCH. The dollar figure will change for each biennium depending on the total dollar amount set by the Legislature to fund higher education.

Key Factors in WSCH Calculation

The weight assigned to a SCH depends on a combination of three factors:

1. The program area to which the course has been inventoried by THECB.
2. The level of the semester credit hour: lower division, upper division, masters, doctoral or professional.
3. For undergraduate courses, whether the instructor is tenured or tenure-track.

The weight corresponds to the lower of the student level or course level. Consider the following examples:

- A freshman or sophomore (lower division student) takes a 300 or 400 level (upper division) course. The SCH are considered lower division and are assigned the lower weight.
- A junior, senior, or graduate student takes a 100 or 200 level course. The SCH are considered lower division and are assigned the lower rate.
- A junior or senior takes a graduate course. The SCH are considered upper division rather than master's level and are assigned the upper division weight. However, if the student is within 12 hours of graduation, the master's weight is assigned.

The level of a course is assigned by the THECB. Although our undergraduate course numbering system is transparent, the graduate course numbering system is not. We have no distinctive number system for master's level courses. In general, if we have a doctoral program in the same area, the courses in that area will be set at the doctoral level. If we do not have a doctoral program in the area, they will be masters level.

Another factor in WSCH calculation is discipline weight. For example, a course in the teacher education discipline has a lower weight than a course in the science discipline. Disciplines, or funding areas, are assigned to our courses by the THECB based on the descriptions we provide. The course is assigned a CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) code and funding code.

In summary, course level, course program area, enrolled student level and, for undergraduate courses, whether the instructor is tenured or tenure track, are the key factors in calculation of WSCH.

The following examples are based on the most recent weights determined by THECB.

Example: ANTH 305 CIP Code 45020100 Funding area: 01 Base Rate: \$60.67

LD Students	UD Students	Masters Students	PhD Students
66	314	0	0
x 3 SCH	x 3 SCH	x 3 SCH	x 3 SCH
198 SCH	942 SCH	0 SCH	0 SCH

To calculate WSCH:

This is an upper division course, so all weights are a combination of student level and course level: since you always take the lower of either the student level or the course level, both upper division and masters students get funded at the upper division rate. The lower division students are funded at the lower division weight.

The funding area of this course is 01: Liberal Arts.

The multiplier for Liberal Arts at the lower division is 1.0 and upper division level is 1.88. Therefore: $(198 \text{ SCH} \times 1.00) + (942 \text{ SCH} \times 1.88) = 198 + 1,770.96 = 1,968.96 \text{ WSCH}$

To calculate funding, multiply the weighted SCH by the current rate of \$60.67:
 $1,968.96 \text{ WSCH} \times \$60.67 = \$119,456.80$

Relative Weights Matrix
2025-2027

Program Area	Discipline	Lower Division Weight	Upper Division Weight	Masters Weight	Doctoral Weight	Professional Weight
01	LIBERAL ARTS	1.00	1.88	4.40	14.78	0.00
02	SCIENCE	1.34	2.66	5.48	22.04	0.00
03	FINE ARTS	1.38	2.64	7.54	11.47	0.00
04	TEACHER EDUCATION	1.27	1.95	2.32	7.59	0.00
05	AGRICULTURE	1.35	2.24	8.92	15.42	0.00
06	ENGINEERING	1.71	2.73	5.44	19.57	0.00
07	HOME ECONOMICS	0.90	1.78	3.18	15.93	0.00
08	LAW	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
09	SOCIAL SERVICES	1.60	1.90	2.55	24.79	0.00
10	LIBRARY SCIENCE	1.86	2.53	3.29	26.29	0.00
11	VETERINARY MEDICINE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.40
12	VOCATIONAL TRAINING	1.43	3.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	PHYSICAL TRAINING	2.08	7.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	HEALTH SERVICES	0.94	1.57	2.57	7.69	3.35
15	PHARMACY	6.40	3.61	34.39	45.27	4.59
16	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	1.10	1.88	3.00	39.01	0.00
17	OPTOMETRY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.78
18	TEACHER ED-PRACTICE TEACHING	1.12	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	TECHNOLOGY	1.49	2.20	4.30	6.83	0.00
20	NURSING	1.56	2.09	2.77	9.91	9.91
21	DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00