Course Classification Primer

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Course Classification and Workload in the CSU: It’s a Scream
Quick Quiz

- What is a WTU and where does it come from?
EP&R 76-36 -- the sacred text and the basis for the course classification system
EP&R 76-36

- Venerable policy for establishing workload
- Establishes “standard” workload and a system for weighting courses taught in different modes
- Other motivations: generating budgeted positions; generating space
- Our course classification conventions are largely unchanged from this policy
Student Credit

- Student course credit over a semester is based on an assumption of 3 hours of effort per week per credit unit.

- Rules of thumb:
  - Traditional lecture and seminar classes generate one unit per one hour of classroom time per week; assumes two hours out of class.
  - More “active learning” modes require more contact per unit of degree credit.
Classifying Courses

- C1 through C6: One credit unit per contact hour
  - Lecturers, seminars, discussions
- C7 through C14: One credit unit per two contact hours
  - Various activities
- C15 and C16: One unit per 3 contact hours
  - Science labs
- Different modes and level of instruction come with “normative class sizes”
# Examples of Course Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact hrs/Unit</th>
<th>K Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>Large lecture</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-4</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-5</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-13</td>
<td>Various activities, labs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-16</td>
<td>Science labs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-78</td>
<td>Non-traditional Instruction (state)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classifying Courses: the details

- Assigning C values based on class approach and subject
- Guidelines around typical class sizes
  - Large lectures (C1) up to room limits
  - Lecture/discussion (C2) nominally 40
  - Discussion (C4) nominally 25
  - Etc.
- Class may combine two components (e.g. C1 + C16 for a lecture/lab combo)
C77 and C78

- Designations where faculty effort does not readily link to student effort.
- Nontraditional Instruction
- C78 is used for state-funded instruction
- No associated WTU; workload is assigned based on estimate of faculty effort needed and provided as assigned time
Weighted Teaching Units

- We need a way to convert contact hours and degree credit to faculty workload. *Student time is not the same as faculty time!*
- The “weighted teaching unit” is this conversion: about 45 hours of faculty effort (in and out of class) per semester unit
Combining C, S, k factors

- C = Mode of direct instruction
- S = Supervision classifications (WTUs based on # of students)
- k = a multiplier to get from credit units to WTU

- Each C designation has an associated “k factor”
- WTU = credit units X k factor
Now for the hard stuff

- Supervision (S courses):
  - WTU credit assigned based on number of students supervised.
  - S factor is associated (roughly) with estimated time spent by faculty member per week. Credit units based on time put in by the student.
  - Range from 0.25 WTU/student (S1) to 1 WTU/student (S5)
## S-Factor Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S Number</th>
<th>Common uses</th>
<th>Contact hrs/week</th>
<th>WTU/enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S-1/S-48</td>
<td>Independent study/studio instruction</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-2/S-36</td>
<td>Independent study/studio instruction</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-3/S-25</td>
<td>Independent study, thesis, student teaching</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-4/S-24</td>
<td>Thesis, student teaching</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-5/S-23</td>
<td>MSW fieldwork</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks, you’ve been a great audience. Questions?