Medical College of Wisconsin
Credit Hour Policy

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education’s regulations and the definition of a Carnegie unit, the Medical College of Wisconsin assigns credit hours as a unit of measurement. The Medical College of Wisconsin awards credit to students who successfully complete required coursework which may include clinical rotations, conferences, labs, research and study.

For example:
18 hours of lecture and exams equals one credit hour.
36 hours of course activities such as conferences, demonstrations, or labs equals one credit hour.
90 hours of external work including research and study equals one credit hour.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education has in place certain standards which require careful evaluation of students in all aspects of medical education. The Medical College of Wisconsin abides by such standards, and follows longstanding practices at medical schools nationwide in which one credit hour is assigned to each week of a clinical rotation.

For example:
4 weeks in the family medicine rotation equals 4 credit hours.
6 weeks in the pediatrics rotation equals 6 credit hours.
8 weeks in the clinical surgery rotation equals 8 credit hours.

In accordance with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education Standard 8.8., the Medical School has established a policy on limitations in student work hours during clerkship rotations that was approved by the Curriculum Evaluation Committee; the clerkship coordinators and directors monitor student work hours to assure compliance with that policy. These hours represent clinical hours, and not hours spent studying or working on other rotation or self-study projects.

A student is considered full-time as long as he/she is enrolled in 9 or more credits (fall and spring terms), or 6 or more credits (summer term) in the Graduate School, or is enrolled in 12 or more credits in the Medical School.