



# Balancing Work, School, and Life while studying at NWACC

With just 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week, it's important to acknowledge that our time is limited, and managing too many commitments can be challenging. In addition to school, you might also have responsibilities like a job, family, friends, and other activities. At NorthWest Arkansas Community College, we want **YOU** to succeed! Let's explore a few ways to help you balance your work, school, and life schedule.

## Understanding Course Load

Course load refers to the total number of credit hours you enroll in for a semester.

- **Full-time:** 12-18 credit hours per semester, usually 3-4 courses
- **Part-time:** 6-11 credit hours per semester, usually 2-3 courses
- **Less than half-time:** 5 or fewer credit hours per semester, usually 1-2 courses

Summer Terms or Accelerated Courses cover the same material as regular courses but in a shorter time. This means you will spend more time each week on these classes compared to regular courses.

## College vs. High School

Task	High School	College
Class Time	6 hours per day	12 hours per week
Study Time	Around 1-2 hours per day	Plan to study 2 hours for every 1 hour of class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>If you're taking 12 hours of classes (full-time), that means 24 hours of studying each week.</b></li></ul>
Tests	Weekly at end of chapter quizzes	2-4 tests each semester, usually one after every 4 chapters. There might also be pop quizzes. Sometimes final exams count for up to 50% of your overall grade.
Grades	Passing grades (even D's) usually get you by	<b>To avoid Academic Probation and to keep your Financial Aid eligibility, you must maintain at least a 2.0 overall GPA!</b>
Teachers	Many times take attendance, may check notebooks, use chalkboard, imparts knowledge and facts, teach the text	Professors often focus on lectures rather than teaching directly from the textbook. They expect you to read the chapters before class and may or may not use whiteboards. They require research and encourage you to think beyond just the facts.
Free time	Usually structured, parents, teachers and other adults set your limits	<b>The biggest challenge for most college students is managing their time. It's important to set your own limits and plan your hours for studying, classes, work, sleep, and other activities.</b>



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## Time Commitment per Course

**For every credit hour you take, plan to spend about two to three hours studying outside of class.**

Here's a guide to help you decide how many courses to take:

Credit Hours	Hours in Class		Hours Studying (2-3x the Credit Hours)		Total Time
<b>3 Credit Hours (1 course)</b>	3 hours in class per week	+	6-9 hours of study time per week	=	9-12 total hours per week
<b>6 Credit hours (2 courses)</b>	6 hours in class per week	+	12-18 hours of study time per week	=	18-24 total hours per week
<b>12 Credit hours (4 courses)</b>	12 hours in class per week	+	24-36 hours of study time per week	=	36-48 total hours per week

## Work & College Schedule

If you work...	We suggest enrolling in...
<b>40 or more hours per week</b>	3-5 credit hours (1 course)
<b>30 hours per week</b>	3-9 credit hours (1-2 courses)
<b>20 hours per week</b>	6-12 credit hours (2-4 courses)
<b>Less than 20 hours per week</b>	12-18 credit hours (4-6 courses)

## How many classes should I take?

**Remember, we learn as whole people, and you are more than just an NWACC Eagle!**

You might also be an employee, spouse, parent, friend, club president, or student-athlete. We strongly encourage you to consider all aspects of your life when planning your semesters at NWACC.

We want you to succeed in your studies while maintaining a healthy balance in all your roles.

**A NorthWest Arkansas Community College Advisor can help you create a schedule that supports you as a college student, employee, friend, and family member!**