

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Credit Unit Statement of the BSc Degree Curriculum

(applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2022-23 and thereafter)

1. General guideline for contact hours requirement in the BSc Degree Curriculum

- (a) A 6-credit course has around 120-180 total study hours, including contact hours, study time, assignment and assessment.
- (b) About 30% of the total study hours are actual contact hours in the form of a class, e.g. lecture hours.
- (c) A 6-credit course has around 36 to 45 lecture hours.
- (d) For lecture-based courses, normally there will be tutorial/discussion sessions.
- (e) For courses employing a non-lecture or lab-based approach, e.g. field camp, IT-based or project-based courses, students are expected to devote about 120-180 hours for a 6-credit course and 240-360 hours for a 12-credit course.
- (f) Study load of intensive Science major (144 to 150 credits*) usually requires 900 to 1080 contact hours, and a total of 3000 to 4320 of student learning hours;
study load of regular Science major (96 credits) usually requires 576 to 720 contact hours, and a total of 1920 to 2880 of student learning hours, and;
study load of Science minor (36 to 42 credits*) usually requires 252 to 270 contact hours, and a total of 840 to 1080 student learning hours.

**Remarks: Please refer to the syllabuses/ programme website for the specific credit requirement of each intensive Science major/ minor.*

2. Credit Unit Statement of the BSc Degree Curriculum

The BSc degree curriculum consists of six major types of courses based on the learning activities. The majority of courses in the programmes are 6 credits. Examples of the contact hours requirements for the six categories of courses are described as follows.

(a) Lecture-based courses (6 credits)

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 36 hours of lectures and 12 hours of tutorial/discussion

These courses are taught predominantly by lectures and tutorials. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-80%) and continuous assessment (20-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(b) Lecture with laboratory component courses (6 credits)

Contact hours for 6-credit course: 24 hours of lectures, 24 hours of laboratory and 6 hours of tutorial

These courses are taught by a combination of lectures and laboratory/practical sessions. Assessment is by a combination of examination (0-70%) and continuous assessment (30-100%). Continuous assessment tasks include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as essays, laboratory reports, and project reports, and oral presentations. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(c) Laboratory and Workshop courses (6 credits)

Contact hours: 48 hours of laboratory or workshop and 12 hours of tutorial

These courses aim at enriching the student's research skills and encourage group work through hands-on activities in which science research is introduced. Students are expected to spend an additional 100 hours on self-study, preparation work for the laboratory, and writing reports. Continuous assessment tasks (100%) include written assignments (totaling no more than 8,000 words) such as laboratory report for each experiment (normally no more than 10 experiments) and essays. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(d) Project-based courses (6 and 12 credits)

These courses aim at providing students with an opportunity to pursue their own research interest under the supervision of a teacher. The teacher normally meets with the student weekly to discuss project progress. Assessment task is normally through research reports or a dissertation (totaling no more than 10,000 words for a 6-credit course and 20,000 words for a 12-credit course). Oral presentation will form part of the assessment. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(e) Field camps (6 credits)

Contact hours: at least 72 hours in the field

These courses aim at giving practical experience in a variety of contexts. Fieldwork may be conducted locally or overseas during reading week or summer. Fieldwork courses have a small number of lecture hours but are predominately practical in nature. Assessment tasks (100%) normally include the following outputs (totaling no more than 8,000 words): field assignments and reports (normally no more than 10 field assignments). Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

(f) Internship (6 credits)

Students have to undertake at least 160 hours of internship work

Internships aim to offer students the opportunity to gain work experience related to their major of study. The teacher meets with the student regularly to discuss work progress. Students have to undertake at least 160 hours of internship work arranged formally. Assessment tasks (100%) normally include the following outputs: a written report of no more than 2000 words and feedback from the internship supervisor and an oral presentation on students' internship experience. Details of the assessment tasks can be found in the description of individual courses.

3. The types of courses in the 14 Science Majors, 7 intensive Science Majors and 17 Science Minors are as follows:

Majors/Minors	Type of Courses					
	Lecture-based	Lecture with laboratory component	Laboratory & Workshop	Project-based	Field camps	Internship
Actuarial Studies (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Astronomy (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Biochemistry (Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Biological Sciences (Intensive Major & Major)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Chemistry (Intensive Major, Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Computational & Financial Mathematics (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Decision Analytics (Major)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Earth Sciences (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Earth System Science (Major)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ecology & Biodiversity (Intensive Major, Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Environmental Science (Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Food & Nutritional Science (Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Geology (Intensive Major & Major)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marine Biology (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mathematics (Intensive Major, Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Molecular Biology & Biotechnology (Intensive Major, Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Operations Research & Mathematical Programming (Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Physics (Intensive Major, Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Risk Management (Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Science Entrepreneurship (Minor)	✓			✓		✓
Statistics (Major & Minor)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

The above different categories of courses follow the unified Credit Unit Statement of the BSc curriculum.