University of South Carolina School of Law Credit Hour Policy
In accordance with ABA Standard 310

1. The Law School faculty, upon the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, establishes the number of credit hours for each course. All course proposals beginning academic year 2016-17, must include a justification for the number of credit hours to be awarded (including out-of-course work).

2. In accordance with ABA Standard 310 (b), a “credit hour” is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: (1) not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or (2) at least an equivalent amount of work as required in number (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including clinical, simulation, field placement, co-curricular, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

3. For each course, the course faculty member must determine that adequate work has been assigned such that a student would be expected to spend a minimum of 30 hours a semester per credit hour outside of the classroom in preparation for the course. The hours include time spent preparing for and taking exams.

4. To document the basis for this determination, the faculty member must include in the course syllabus an adequate description of the work to be assigned.

5. Students enrolled in clinics or externships must submit written documentation for time spent on course-related work to their supervising faculty member at regular intervals, to be determined by their supervising faculty member. Faculty will determine the number of hours required for each unit of credit; at a minimum, students must complete 42.5 hours for 1 credit; 85 hours for 2 credits, and 127.5 hours for 3 credits.

6. Students enrolled in directed research and other non-regularly scheduled classes must complete a minimum of 42.5 hours for 1 credit; 85 hours for 2 credits, and 127.5 hours for 3 credits.

7. For Law Journals and Co-Curricular activities, such as mock trial and moot court, the Editor in Chief or similar position, is responsible for verifying to the faculty advisor that each student to be awarded 2 credits has completed 85 hours of work, which may include written materials, preparation time and performance in competitions.

8. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is responsible for interpreting this Policy to ensure consistency and compliance with ABA Accreditation standards and conducting a review of course syllabi every 3 years to ensure compliance with this credit hour policy. At the Associate Dean’s request, the Curriculum Committee will further review a number of course syllabi to ensure compliance.