EAHEA CREDIT SYSTEMS



EAHEA®

European Association for Higher Education Advancement

EAHEA Credit Systems

EAHEA Credit Systems are four independent evaluation metrics established by the European Association for Higher Education Advancement. Each one measures the total nominal workload of a program or a course at a level of education, from short courses and executive workshops to doctoral-level executive programs: MUC, PAC, ILC and EUC.

The EAHEA Credit Systems give independent, professional and executive education one clear, comparable way to state the workload and the level of a program. They are established for education providers whose programs fall outside the credit systems of state higher education systems, such as independent private business schools and universities, corporate academies, training providers, continuing education centers, online course platforms and the course creators who publish through them, and for the learners and employers who read their credentials. EAHEA authorizes the providers, sets one method of calculation and publishes the directories in which anyone can verify a provider.

Credit Values at a Glance

System	Full name	Level	One credit equals
MUC	Modular Units of Competency	High school, college and secondary level study, continuing education, short courses, online courses and certificates	10 to 15 hours of total nominal workload
PAC	Professional Advancement Credits	Professional certificates and associate and bachelor level study	20 to 25 hours of total nominal workload
ILC	Institutional Learning Credits	Licentiate, postgraduate and master's level study	25 to 30 hours of total nominal workload
EUC	Executive Units of Competency	Doctoral level study	30 to 35 hours of total nominal workload

To work out the credits of a program, or the hours that a number of credits needs, use the EAHEA Credit Calculator.

Minimum Workload for Level Names

Credential names that describe a level, such as Master-Level Diploma or MBA Track, may be used only when the program reaches a minimum workload that the Operational Manual states. The EAHEA Credit Calculator also gives the minimum hours of a level name.

Scope of Covered Programs

The EAHEA Credit Systems are designed for private, professional, commercial and lifelong learning pathways, and not for the degree programs of state higher education systems. They cover the following educational formats.

Modular and Short-Term Education (MUC)

- Intensive executive workshops, masterclasses and seminars of one day or more
- Short professional certificate courses
- Corporate training academies, internal professional development modules and industry training badges
- Continuing Education Center (CEC) short courses and specialized skill units
- Single modular units embedded within broader professional diplomas
- Synchronous and asynchronous e-learning modules
- Online courses and course series published by online course platforms and EdTech providers, including the courses of individual course creators on an authorized platform
- Modules of school diplomas, pre-year foundation programs and pre-university vocational preparation tracks
- High school, secondary school and college level courses
- Continuing education programs
- Professional certificate programs of 150 hours or less

Career and Undergraduate-Level Education (PAC)

- Professional certificate programs in business administration and career specializations (more than 150 hours)
- Associate level programs and higher vocational diplomas
- Advanced professional diplomas and intermediate career specialization pathways
- Executive Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) tracks and other bachelor level professional programs
- Higher vocational, avocational and applied industry training

Postgraduate and Executive Education (ILC)

- Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) and specialized MBA tracks
- Master's level programs, including non-thesis strategic management programs (with an applied management capstone project)
- Postgraduate diplomas (PG Diploma / Level 7 equivalent) and advanced management certificates at postgraduate level (more than 150 hours)
- Licentiate programs and advanced postgraduate professional industry diplomas
- Advanced executive master's diplomas in specialized industry disciplines

Doctoral and Advanced Senior Research Education (EUC)

- Executive Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) tracks and applied research tracks
- Executive doctoral-level professional diplomas, including doctoral-level organizational strategy and advanced executive research qualifications
- Senior leadership research fellowships and executive scholar pathways

- Post-master executive competency specializations

The 150-hour rule: A program of 150 hours or less of total workload is credited in MUC at every level. PAC, ILC and EUC are used for programs of more than 150 hours.

Outside the scope: The EAHEA Credit Systems are not used for the degree programs of state higher education systems, and they are not shown as credits of such a degree. They are not given for attendance alone, for work experience that is not an assessed learning activity, or for an event of fewer than 10 hours of total workload.

Who Uses the Credit Systems

Authorized Providers

Only a provider that EAHEA has authorized may calculate, award, state and display the credits: an institution accredited by EAHEA or an institution listed in the ECS Provider Directory. An institution accredited by EAHEA uses the credit systems under the terms of its accreditation. Any other institution can be approved by EAHEA for the credit systems alone and is listed in the ECS Provider Directory. This approval is an authorization to use the credits. It is not an accreditation of the institution or of its programs. The credit systems are established for the following types of provider.

Business schools and higher education institutions: Independent private higher education institutions, international business schools and executive research institutes that are accredited by EAHEA or listed in the ECS Provider Directory.

Corporate training academies and enterprise learning centers: Corporations, enterprise academies and corporate institutions that standardize the training of their employees, their leadership programs and their professional certification tracks with one common measure of workload.

Independent professional training providers and academies: Commercial training institutes, vocational skill centers, IT boot camps, coaching academies and specialized industry certification bodies.

Continuing education and lifelong learning centers: University-affiliated or independent continuing education centers (CEC) that deliver non-degree professional development courses and adult education modules.

Online course platforms and EdTech: Online education providers, e-learning platforms and course marketplaces that deliver structured modular training, professional certificates and career tracks.

Individual course creators: Instructors and independent creators who publish online courses through an authorized platform or institution. The platform or institution is the authorized provider, and it calculates, awards and states the credits.

Learners, Employers and Other Readers

Learners, executives and professionals, and employers, corporations and human resources professionals read, compare and verify the credits. They need no authorization, because they do not award them. Learners and employers can verify a provider in the Accredited Institutions directory or in the ECS Provider Directory. The guide “What EAHEA Credits Mean for Learners and Employers” explains how to read the credits.

The program decides, not the type of provider. Any authorized provider may use a credit system for the programs that fall within the scope of that system, and only for the credit systems that its authorization names.

Where EAHEA Applies Them

The credits are used in Program Accreditation, Course Accreditation and Credit Certification. A program is measured in the credit system of its level, and short courses are measured in MUC. Credit Certification states the EAHEA credits of a certified course together with its ECTS, CATS and USC credit equivalents.

EAHEA credits are independent professional metrics. They are distinct from ECTS, CATS, U.S. credit hours and other credit systems of state higher education systems, and from the degrees of those systems.

Acceptance and Equivalence

On request, EAHEA acts as an intermediary between providers, learners and receiving institutions on questions of acceptance or equivalence, free of charge. The receiving institution or organization decides whether to accept a credit, under its own rules, as it does with ECTS, CATS, U.S. credit hours and other credit systems of state higher education systems. EAHEA's support covers, for example, confirming the authorization of the provider and the way in which the credits were calculated. The decision on acceptance stays with the receiving institution. To ask for this support, contact the EAHEA Secretariat.

The Workload Comparison Guide shows how the workload behind each EAHEA credit compares with ECTS, CATS and U.S. credit hours.

Trademark Notice and Authorized Use

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The authority to award these credits belongs solely to EAHEA. An institution or organization may calculate, award, state or display these credits only if EAHEA has authorized it as a provider, either as an institution accredited by EAHEA and listed in the Accredited Institutions directory, or as an institution approved by EAHEA for the EAHEA Credit Systems alone and listed in the ECS Provider Directory, at that time. The authorization of an institution can be verified in the respective directory.

Any other use of these names or credits, including on certificates, transcripts, websites, advertising or other materials, requires the prior written permission of EAHEA and is otherwise not permitted. EAHEA may withdraw an authorization when its conditions are no longer met and reserves the right to take legal action against unauthorized use.



EAHEA®

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EAHEA is a European-based non-governmental, independent, and international quality assurance, rating, certification, and accreditation association, founded in 1997 and working to improve the educational quality of institutes and institutions globally. EAHEA grants accreditation to universities, colleges, schools, educational institutes, vocational institutions, distance learning centers, online courses, and corporations; and grants professional certification to professionals, qualified individuals, instructors, and students.

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