**Clarifying course delivery & credit hours**

Research of our own catalog shows we are consistent in the definition of lecture hours and the number of academic credits awarded per lecture hour. However, consistency and clarity ends there. We offer both 2- and 3-hour labs. Typically one lab meeting, of either 2 or 3 hours, is awarded one academic credit. Two lab meetings a week are awarded 2 academic credits. The three-hour labs receive fewer credits per hour than the two-hour labs. We do not offer lab-only courses. Studios and studio credits have been less well defined. In the current catalog 1 hour of studio counts for between zero and 1 academic with an average of 0.33 to 050; that average has been used in the definition below.

**Lecture** (1 academic credit/ lecture hour)

A regularly scheduled class in which the instructor takes the dominant role and the primary emphasis is on transmitting a body of knowledge or information and explaining ideas or principles. Student comments or questions will be accommodated as circumstances permit. In some courses, students may be expected to participate in classroom activities by means appropriate to the subject matter, such as discussion, performance, etc. Information regarding required text and reading list is provided.

**Seminar** (1 academic credit/seminar hour)

A regularly scheduled class in which a small group of students are engaged, under the leadership of the instructor, in research or advanced study. Topics may be interdisciplinary or highly specialized. Maximal opportunity for peer exchange is provided. Instructor provides broad outline of possible topics and procedures. Enrollment normally limited to 15 students.

**Laboratory** (0.33 – 0.50 academic credits/hour)

A regularly scheduled class with primary emphasis on learning by doing or observing, with the burden of course activity placed on the student, under the direction and supervision of the instructor, for the purpose of giving first-hand experience, developing and practicing skills, translating theory into practice, and developing, testing, and applying principles.  Manuals, needed materials, instruments, equipment, and/or tools are provided, or recommendations are made for their acquisition.

**Studio** (0.33 – 0.50 academic credits/hour)

A regularly scheduled class with primary emphasis on student creative activity leading to skill development and the enhancement and encouragement of the student's creative and artistic growth. Typically, student efforts result in divergent solutions to common problems. Needed materials, instruments, equipment, and/or tools are provided, or recommendations are made for their acquisition. Evaluation of individual learning may include public display of proficiency and/or evaluation by faculty other than the student's instructor. Each student receives from the instructor an end-of-semester assessment of accomplishment.

*Most of the definitions used here were developed at Michigan State University:*

*http://www.reg.msu.edu/academicprograms/Print.asp?Section=506*