Getting it Done: How Much Time Do I Need for My Courses?

**Directions:** This exercise is to help students become more aware of the amount of time they should be devoting to their courses - in class, working on assignments, and studying - per week. If students need help working through this exercise, provide them with proper assistance, following the directions in the boxes below.

Ask students: How many credits are you taking this semester? 

_____

Let them know that this number represents the hours they spend in class each week.

Have them multiply the number of credits by 2. 

___ \times 2 = ____

This represents how much time they should devote to their coursework each week.

They should allow that amount of time to devote to their studies each week.

Now, have them add the number of credits they are taking and the number of hours they should spend on coursework together. 

____ + _____ = _____

So, if they are taking three, 3-credit courses in a regular (16 week) semester, they should be devoting at least 27 hours per week on school work.

For example:

- They should be spending 9 (3 courses x 3 credit hours = 9 total credit hours) hours in class per week.
- They should be studying and working on assignments 18 (9 total credit hours \times 2 hours spent working on coursework per credit) hours a week.
- Thus, the 9 hours spent in class and the 18 hours a week spent working on coursework equate to devoting at least 27 hours per week on schoolwork.

*Keep in mind that for subjects that are more difficult for them, students may need to allow more time. If they’d like some more insight, offer to discuss their coursework and other responsibilities with them.*