Rider University has a 13-week semester, followed by seven days of examinations.

Rider uses the true number of minutes per hour-long session; i.e., a one-hour meeting is actually 60 minutes. Three-credit classes meet for 60, 90, or 180 minutes, corresponding to, respectively and typically, 3, 2, or 1 meetings per week.

In the Westminster College of the Arts all performance courses receive credit:

- All ensembles receive 1 credit
- Other performance-based courses receive 1-3 credits
- A full-semester Student Teaching experience receives 12 credits.
- Westminster Choir College students enrolled in LL 037, MTH 100S, PI 045, or TH 045 receive credit toward their semester course load, but such credits do not count toward graduation.

Applied music instruction receives 1-3 credits.