Individual Credit/Contact Hour Limit
This is the wording from the UEA contract: The maximum teaching load for any individual full-time Member on a nine-month, regular appointment, without administrative responsibility or released time shall be 24 credit hours or 32 contact hours per academic year. Faculty with a strong research program may apply for a reduced teaching load. Faculty proposals for such reductions must meet established criteria, be recommended by their department heads, and be approved by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The University shall grant a minimum aggregate reduction of 30 credit hours per academic year based on approved applications. Preference will be given to tenure-track faculty.

Tenure-Track and Tenured Faculty Research Release Procedures
A minimum of 30 credits are available for faculty to request teaching release time to work on research related to their academic program, specialty area or expertise. This research:

- should advance the mission of the University of Minnesota Crookston
- should enhance classroom teaching and be appropriate to extend into the classroom and the student experience
- should have any departmental or university funding approved before submission
- should have potential for external funding
- should have potential for interdisciplinary connections to evolve from the research
- may involve other educational or corporate partnerships in collaborative research
- should have the potential to result in a publication

Normal requests would be for three credits release per semester - That is considered a 25 percent reduction in normal teaching load.

To apply for research release time, a faculty member must submit a completed Research Release Request form to their department head by the deadline posted so that appropriate time is available to modify schedules or cover classes. Requests must include the following:

1. Research Information – the faculty member must submit to their department head a document that identifies:
   a. Quantity and semester of release time requested
   b. Topic and description of research activities
   c. Deliverables that will show progress at the end of each semester
   d. Costs associated with the research
   e. Sources of additional funding to cover related costs
   f. Any related requests for assistance on the project
   g. Summary of accomplishments and deliverables from previously approved research releases within the previous two years

2. A cover page form signed by the Department Head and the faculty member must be completed indicating:
   a. What change is being made in the faculty assignment during this release
   b. How course needs will be provided to students in proper sequence
   c. Costs identified for the research and accepted by the department head
   d. What course needs to be covered during the faculty members release time and how it will be covered

Deadlines
- The deadline for submitting release time requests to the department head for Spring Semester 2018 is September 11, 2017.
- The deadline for submitting release requests to the Department Head for Fall Semester 2018 is October 20, 2017.
- Department heads are to forward requests that they support to Academic Affairs no later than two weeks after the deadline for faculty requests.