

General College Vocabulary

These are terms you should become familiar with as you will be hearing them and using them throughout your academic careers at any college or university you aspire to attend.

Academic Year: September through the following August. Includes the Fall Semester, Winter Semester, Spring Semester, and Summer Session.

Academic Credits: See Credits

Accredited: Certified by a specific state, regional, or national organization as meeting standards of quality in instruction, staffing, facilities, finances, and policies.

ACT: American College Testing program is an assessment used for undergraduate admission purposes.

Admission: Being accepted by a college or university so you can register for courses.

Associate Degree: Degree (diploma) granted after successful completion of a program of study which has a minimum of 62 credits.

Associate in Arts Degree (AA): A degree designed for transfer to an upper division college or university. A Florida A.A. degree satisfies General Education Program (GEP) requirements at all Florida State University Systems Schools (SUS).

Associate in Science Degree (AS): A broad based degree designed to prepare students to enter a wide variety of careers.

Baccalaureate or Bachelors Degree: completion of all University and major graduation requirements as certified by the University. A B.A. is the Bachelor of Arts degree, and a B.S. is the Bachelor of Science degree.

Catalog: a resource for students to use to find out about the University academic policies, procedures, college/school/degree/major requirements, course descriptions and faculty listings. It is published annually and its contents are subject to change. Each college/university has one, many can be accessed on line via the world wide web.

Course: A single subject, such as ENC 1101 (English Part 1), taken for one semester.

Credits: Also referred to as Academic Credits, Credit Hours, and Semester Hours. Each course is assigned a number of credits which generally indicates the number of hours per week the class meets; i.e., a three credit course generally meets three hours each week. Courses with labs and occupational courses, however, generally meet more hours than the number of credits they carry. Tuition and fees are ordinarily charged by credit.

Curriculum: See Program of Study

Elective: A course you may elect (choose) to take as opposed to a course you are required to take.

Fees: Special charges for courses or services other than tuition.

Financial Aid: Money received from various sources (grants, loans, scholarships, jobs) to help students with college costs. Most, but not all, forms of aid are based on financial need.

Financial Aid Transcript: A document you are required by federal regulations to have every other college you attended send to the Financial Aid Office of the current school you are at or are planning on attending, which lists any federal aid you may have received or states that you received no aid. Required of financial aid recipients before aid can be awarded.

Full-Time Student: Enrolled in 12 or more credits in a semester.

G.E.D. (General Educational Development): A high school equivalency certificate for adults who did not receive the traditional high school diploma. It is earned by passing the national G.E.D. exam, which may be taken through Delta Assessment/Testing Services Office.

General Education Program: A group of courses in the areas of social science, natural/physical science, communication, and humanities which provide a common and broadly-based body of knowledge.

GPA (Grade Point Average): The average number of grade points per semester hour attempted. GPA is computed by dividing the total number of grade points assigned by the total number of semester hours attempted, less hours resulting from NC (No Credit), W (Withdrawal), WP (Withdrawal Passing), and I (Incomplete). The semester GPA includes grades in each semester; the cumulative GPA includes grades from all semesters at the school you attend.

Graduation Requirements: Specific steps and courses you must successfully complete to qualify for a degree or certificate.

Grants: Money provided for educational expenses that does not have to be repaid; also called "gift aid."

Loans: Money you borrow from your bank or credit union for educational expenses which must be repaid after you leave school.

Major: A group of related courses that constitute a focused program of study in a specific area of knowledge.

Minor: A compliment to a Bachelors degree program/major requiring at least 18 credit hours in a field.

Orientation: A program you will participate in as a new student, which will acquaint you with the College/University facilities, programs, services, and procedures and during which a counselor will assist you in reviewing your program and selecting your courses.

Out-of-State Student: A legal resident of a state other than Florida or of a foreign country.

Part-Time Student: Enrolled in less than 12 credits in a semester.

Prerequisite: Courses which must be successfully completed or requirements which must be met before enrolling in a specific course. Prerequisites are listed at the beginning of the course description.

Program of Study: A group of specific courses which you are required to complete successfully in order to qualify for a degree or certificate.

Registration: The time when you enroll in your courses and pay your tuition and fees.

Required Course: A course in your program that you must take as opposed to one that you elect (choose) to take.

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT): an assessment tool used for College/University admission purposes.

Semester/Term: The way the academic year is divided into segments. Each lasts approximately 15 weeks in length. Some Universities break them up into “quarters.” They are usually referred to as Fall (late August through December), Spring (January through April), and Summer (May through August).

Semester Hours: See Credits.

State University System (SUS): All eleven Florida Public Universities make up the SUS.

Transcript: Your official College/University record listing all academic courses attempted with grades, credits, and honor points; all transfer credits accepted; any credit awarded by examination or advanced placement; and your cumulative GPA.

Transfer: The official process of moving from attendance at one college or university to attendance at another college or university.

Tuition: The money you pay the College for instruction and services. A dollar amount is assigned to each credit. Tuition is determined by multiplying the dollar amount by the number of credits for which you are registering.

Undergraduate: Term used to define any student in a college or university who has not completed the coursework required to obtain his Bachelors degree.