

GLOSSARY OF EDUCATIONAL TERMS

Advisor - A faculty member or academic advisor who helps students plan course work depending on the requirements of your program and specific educational goals.

Associate of Applied Science Degree - This degree prepares students for employment through training, technical and related skills and instruction in academic subjects appropriate to the occupational field.

Associate of Arts Degree - This is a 90-credit community college transfer degree. This degree fulfills the general education requirements for most four-year degrees in arts and sciences.

Associate of Science Degree - This is a 90-credit community college transfer degree for students planning to major in a science field. It provides students the opportunity to concentrate in a major area of study in math and science and fulfills the general education requirements for most four-year degrees in arts and sciences.

Audit - Students attending classes as a listener or "auditor" without the obligation of doing the required work and without receiving credit.

Bachelor's Degree - The academic title granted by four-year colleges and universities upon the successful completion of (usually) four years of prescribed study (including the courses completed at a community college). This degree is sometimes called the "baccalaureate" degree.

Certificate - Some of the Technical and Applied Studies programs lead to an AAS degree, others to an occupational certificate. The certificate programs consist entirely of occupational training; whereas, the degree program consists of occupational courses, as well as a variety of other courses called "support courses."

Challenge Test - Some divisions allow students to take a test in order to demonstrate their knowledge in a particular subject area. Students who do well on challenge tests may be exempt from taking a particular course and/or may receive credit for that course.

Coordinated Studies – A program which integrates the study of several disciplines around specific themes.

Counselor - A person trained in psychology who helps students solve problems, become more knowledgeable about themselves, set goals and make decisions relative to their personal, social, educational and vocational concerns.

Course Waiver - A student may be excused from enrolling in a required course on the basis of a high placement test score, previous acquisition of the skills taught in the course, a passing score on a challenge test or other reasons. Division policies vary relative to the granting of credit for "waived" courses.

Credit/Credit Hour - The words "credit" and "hour" are often used synonymously. For the majority of courses, the number of credits offered equals the number of hours in a class

per week for that course. (A five-credit course requires five hours in a class each week.)
NOTE: Your tuition is based on the total number of credit hours you register for, but you receive credit on your transcript only for the number of credit hours in which you receive a passing grade.

Cumulative Grade-Point Average - A student's grade-point average (GPA) based on the total number of honor points earned and the total number of quarter hours attempted.

Curriculum - The group of courses required for a particular degree or certificate.

Direct Transfer Agreement - The associate degree(s) that a two-year college has defined as meeting the guidelines that enables you to transfer to a four-year college or university with all or most of the basic requirements (general education or "core") completed.

Distance Learning – A program that allows students to complete for-credit coursework through audiocassette, correspondence, interactive television, Internet, telecourse or videocassette.

Electives - Courses which students "elect" to enroll as "free choice" courses, as opposed to "required" courses which the student must take to fulfill graduation requirements.

Humanities - Includes courses in art, dance, drama, English, foreign language, humanities, music, philosophy 100 and speech.

Liberal Studies - The general education courses in the humanities, mathematics and natural sciences and social sciences.

Major - An academic area of specialization chosen by the student.

Matriculation - The first registration following admission for students earning transfer credits, degrees or certificates.

Prerequisite – Any testing or coursework that must be completed before enrolling in a class. It is imperative that you read the course descriptions in the catalog to learn of the prerequisites.

Natural Sciences - Courses in anatomy astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, general science, geology, health, oceanography, physics, physiology, engineering and meteorology. In addition, one of the following may be used for distribution: physical anthropology and physical geography.

Social Science – Courses in anthropology, economics, environmental sciences, geography, history, international studies, philosophy, political science, psychology, social science and sociology.

Syllabus – A brief statement of the main points of a text, lecture or course of study.

Transcript – An official academic record showing courses completed, grades and credits earned.

Transcript Evaluation – Students transferring from another institution should have their transcripts evaluated to determine how many courses previously taken may be applied to their degree.

Transferability – Many community college courses transfer to four-year colleges. Some do not. It is your responsibility to determine which courses are transferable. As a general rule, learning assistance and vocational courses do not transfer.