



## Demystifying College A Glossary of Terms

1. **Academic Advisor:** A faculty or staff member who provides guidance on academic and career choices.
2. **Academic Calendar:** A schedule that outlines important academic dates, including start and end of classes, exam periods, and holidays.
3. **Academic Integrity:** Upholding ethical standards in academic work, including avoiding plagiarism and cheating.
4. **Academic Probation:** A status assigned to students who fail to meet the minimum GPA requirements, often leading to additional monitoring or requirements.
5. **Adjunct Professor:** A part-time faculty member who is usually hired on a contractual basis and may teach specific courses without tenure.
6. **Advancement:** The department responsible for advancing the institution's goals, reputation, and financial support through various strategic initiatives.
7. **Alumni:** Graduates of a college or university.
8. **Bachelor's Degree:** An undergraduate degree awarded by colleges and universities upon completion of a specified course of study, often completed in four years.
9. **Bursar:** The office responsible for managing student financial accounts, tuition payments, and billing.
10. **Chancellor:** The highest-ranking official of the institution, responsible for overall leadership, vision, and administration.
11. **Capstone Project:** A culminating project or experience often required in the final year of study, showcasing skills and knowledge gained during the program.

12. **Canvas/Blackboard:** Online platforms used by many universities for course management, including posting assignments, grades, and communication.
13. **Commencement:** Graduation ceremony marking the completion of a degree.
14. **Convocation:** A formal ceremony at the beginning of the academic year where new students are officially welcomed, and the academic community is brought together.
15. **Credit Hour:** A unit of measurement representing the amount of time a student spends in a class per week. Most courses are assigned a certain number of credit hours.
16. **Cross-listed Course:** A course that is offered by multiple departments, allowing students from different majors to enroll.
17. **CSS Profile:** An online application used by some colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid.
18. **Curriculum:** The set of courses and their content offered by an educational institution.
19. **Dean:** A senior official in a college or university responsible for overseeing a specific academic department or the entire academic affairs division.
20. **Dean of Students:** A senior administrator responsible for overseeing student affairs and services, addressing issues related to student life, conduct, and well-being.
21. **Degree Audit:** A report that outlines a student's progress toward completing the requirements for their degree.
22. **Dissertation:** A lengthy research project required for the completion of a doctoral degree.
23. **Drop/Add Period:** The time at the beginning of each quarter during which students can adjust their class schedules.
24. **Discussion Section:** A smaller group session that complements a lecture, allowing students to engage in discussions, ask questions, and review course material.
25. **Doctorate:** The highest level of academic degree requiring several years of post-graduate study and original research.

26. **Dual Degree:** Pursuing two separate degrees simultaneously, often combining fields of study, such as earning both a law degree and a business degree.
27. **Emeritus/Emerita:** An honorary title given to retired professors in recognition of their past service.
28. **FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. A form that students fill out to determine their eligibility for federal financial aid.
29. **Fellowship:** A position and/or financial stipend awarded to individuals to support their research, study, or professional development.
30. **Final Exam:** A comprehensive exam held at the end of the semester to assess a student's understanding of the entire course.
31. **Financial Aid:** Money provided to help students pay for their education. This can include grants, scholarships, and loans.
32. **First-Generation Student:** A student whose parents/guardians did not earn a bachelor's degree.
33. **Four+One (4+1) Program:** An academic course of study that leads to both a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years.
34. **Full-time/Part-time Student:** A classification based on the number of credit hours a student is taking in a given term.
35. **General Education/ Common Curriculum:** A set of requirements that all students must complete, regardless of their major.
36. **GPA:** Grade Point Average. It is a numerical representation of a student's average academic performance.
37. **Graduate Assistantship:** A form of financial aid for graduate students, often involving work as a teaching or research assistant.
38. **Graduate Student:** A student who has completed a bachelor's degree and is pursuing a higher-level degree (master's or doctoral).
39. **Grant:** May refer to type of financial aid that is usually need-based and does not need to be repaid or a type of aid designed to support specific research or creative activities.

40. **Honorary Degree:** A degree awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to society, academia, or a particular field, even though they did not complete a traditional academic program.
41. **Internship:** A temporary position that provides work experience related to a student's major or career goal.
42. **Instructor:** An individual, often without tenure, who teaches courses at a college or university.
43. **Lab:** A practical, hands-on learning environment for science or research-related courses.
44. **Lab Assistant:** A student or assistant who helps with tasks and experiments in a laboratory setting.
45. **Lecture:** A formal presentation by a professor to a large audience, usually involving the explanation of course content or a class model that includes the presentation of material. Student discussion is limited or reserved for a special section of the course.
46. **Major:** The main field of study a student chooses to specialize in during their college education.
47. **Master's Degree:** An advanced degree typically requiring 1-2 years of study beyond the bachelor's degree, focusing on a specific course of study.
48. **Midterm Exam:** An exam that takes place in the middle of the semester, assessing the material covered up to that point.
49. **Minor:** A secondary field of study chosen in addition to a major.
50. **Office Hours:** Designated times when professors are available to meet with students outside of class for additional help or discussion.
51. **Orientation:** A program designed to help new students become familiar with the campus, resources, and academic expectations.
52. **Peer Mentor:** An individual who has volunteered or been hired to support their peers' academic, social, and or professional development.
53. **Peer Review:** The process of evaluation by classmates or colleagues, often used in assessing academic work.

54. **Peer-Reviewed Journal:** A scholarly publication where articles are evaluated by experts in the field before publication.
55. **Plagiarism:** Using someone else's work or ideas without giving them proper credit, considered academic dishonesty.
56. **Prerequisite:** A course or requirement that must be completed before enrolling in a more advanced course.
57. **Professor:** An individual often engaged in a combination of teaching, research, and service who are expected to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their discipline through research and scholarly activities.
58. **Professional Degree:** A specialized advanced degree designed for specific professions such as the Juris Doctor (JD) for law or Doctor of Medicine (MD) for medical professionals.
59. **Provost:** The chief academic officer responsible for overseeing academic programs, faculty, and educational policies at a college or university.
60. **Research Grant:** Funding provided to faculty or researchers for conducting academic research.
61. **Residence Hall:** On-campus housing for students.
62. **Registrar:** The office responsible for student records, course registration, and academic policies.
63. **Sabbatical:** A period during which a professor is granted leave from normal teaching duties for research, writing, or professional development.
64. **Scholarship:** An institutional or private financial award given to students based on academic achievement, talent, or other criteria.
65. **Seminar:** A small group class where students and professors engage in discussions and collaborative learning.
66. **Study Abroad:** College study spent outside of a student's home country.
67. **Syllabus:** A document provided by professors outlining the topics, assignments, and schedule for a course.
68. **Terminal Degree:** The highest level of degree attainable in a particular field, often a doctorate, marking the end of formal education in that discipline.

69. **Thesis:** A long essay or research project required for completion of a graduate or, in some cases, an honors degree.
70. **Transcript:** An official record of a student's academic performance, including grades and courses taken.
71. **Transfer Student:** A student who has received and applied credit from another institution toward their college degree.
72. **Tenure:** A status granted to faculty members after a probationary period, ensuring job security and academic freedom.
73. **Tuition:** The amount of money charged for each academic term or course at a college or university.
74. **Undergraduate:** A student pursuing a bachelor's degree.
75. **Work-Study:** A program that allows students to work part-time jobs to earn money to help pay for their education.