

# GLOSSARY OF COLLEGE TERMS

Many colleges use the following terms, but their definitions may vary slightly.

**Accreditation:** An endorsement given to educational institutions or academic degree programs by an organization that reviews qualifications.

**Associate's degree:** A two-year degree from a community or junior college.

**Audit:** To attend a class without receiving credit for the class.

**Bachelor's degree:** A four-year degree from a college, university or professional school; usually requires at least 124 credit hours.

**Course numbers:** Numbers assigned to specific classes.

**Credit hour:** Credit given for attending one lecture hour of class each week for 15 weeks or equivalent. Most college classes are three credit hours, meaning their total meeting time for a week is three hours.

**Degree:** A certificate of completion of a course of study.

**Degree plan:** A specific list of required courses and electives to be completed for a degree.

**Doctoral degree:** The most advanced degree that can be earned.

**Fees:** Course-related costs to attend college.

**Flat-rate tuition:** Policy instituted by some institutions in which students are charged a single rate beyond a certain number of credit hours taken.

**Freshman:** A student who has completed less than 30 hours of college credit.

**Full time:** Twelve or more credit hours per semester for undergraduate students.

**GPA:** Grade point average; the average of your class grades, generally based on a 4.0 scale.

**Grants:** Financial assistance that does not require repayment.

**Half time:** Six credit hours per semester for undergraduate students.

**Internship:** A job in a student's field of study; may be required in some academic programs and may include salary and college credit.

**Junior:** A student who has completed 60 to 89 college credit hours.

**Loans:** Financial assistance that must be repaid.

**Long session:** Regular fall or spring semester.

**Major:** A student's concentrated field of study.

**Master's degree:** A graduate degree that usually requires two or more years of study beyond the bachelor's degree.

**Minor:** A student's secondary field of study.

**Nonresident:** Any student who lives out of state or does not meet specific state residency requirements.

**Online courses:** Classes held on the Internet instead of in a traditional classroom.

**Prerequisite:** A course that must be taken prior to enrollment in another course.

**Private university:** A non-state-assisted college or university that relies on private funding, tuition and fees.

**Public university:** A state-assisted college or university.

**Registration:** Enrollment in classes.

**Resident:** A student who meets state residency requirements.

**Rolling admission:** Policy in which a school sends out acceptance letters to students as they are accepted.

**Scholarships:** Financial assistance based on merit; do not require repayment.

**Semester hour:** See **Credit hour**.

**Senior:** A student who has completed 90 or more hours of college credit but has not received a bachelor's degree.

**Sophomore:** A student who has completed 30 to 59 college credit hours.

**Summer session:** A summer term of approximately six weeks.

**Three-quarter time:** Nine credit hours for undergraduate students.

**Tuition:** Costs for courses, not including certain fees.

**Web-based classes:** See **Online courses**.

**Web registration:** Registration through the Internet for classes.

**Work-study program:** A federal financial aid program that allows students to work on campus.

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