

# College Lingo

**Academic Notice:** students with fewer than 30 credit hours, with a retention GPA of 1.7 to 1.99

**Academic Probation:** students with more than 29 credit hours, with a retention GPA lower than 2.00

**Academic Suspension:** students on academic probation who do not achieve a term GPA of 2.00; must sit out one semester

**Academic year:** August through July

**Add/Drop period:** period of time at the beginning of each semester when students can add or drop courses without financial or academic repercussions

**Adjunct instructor:** part-time instructor

**Advisor:** university official who assists students in choosing appropriate coursework

**Associate degree:** typically requires 60-65 hours of courses to complete

**Audit:** taking a course for no credit

**Bachelor's degree:** typically requires 120-130 hours of courses to complete

**Blue book:** literally a blue book containing writing paper; used for essay tests

**Bulletin:** yearly university publication detailing policies, degree requirements, and course descriptions

**Closed class:** the limit on the number of students allowed in a specific course has been reached

**College:** contains and administers several academic departments; for example, the College of Business and Technology, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Mathematics, Science, and Health Science

**Complete withdrawal:** withdrawing from every course in a particular semester

**Comprehensive test:** tests topics covered throughout the entire course

**Course number:** identifies the course with an abbreviation of the department and a number (ex. BIOL 1114)

**Credit hour:** typically referred to as an "hour"; the equivalent of one hour of class per week in a regular 16-week course

**Cumulative GPA:** includes grades from every undergraduate course ever taken

**Dean:** each college has one who is in charge

**Deficiency:** area of academics in which students are not proficient to the college level and must enroll in zero-level courses

**Degree check:** prior to graduation, this is completed to make sure students have completed all requirements

**Department:** contained within a college, offers academic programs; for example Business Department, Visual Arts Department, and Biology Department

**Department Head:** every department has one who is in charge

**Facebook:** online social network

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid; required for students wishing to obtain financial aid

**Fall semester:** August through December

**Federal loans:** loans awarded by the government; must be paid back

**Fees:** required financial charges placed on student accounts upon enrollment in courses

**Finals:** last week of each semester, in which every course has a final test

**Full-time student:** enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours per Fall or Spring, or 6 hours in Summer

**General education:** courses every student is required to take, regardless of major; English, math, science, history, etc.

**GPA:** short for Grade Point Average; measure of student's academic achievement; calculated by dividing total number of grade points received by total number of hours attempted

**Grants:** financial aid awarded by the government; do not have to be paid back

**Hillcat card:** student ID card which can serve as a debit card in specific areas on campus

**Hillcat Hub:** online student portal used for enrollment and other services

**Honor roll:** for fall or spring semester, students who complete at least 12 hour and earn at least a 3.5 GPA with no grade lower than a “B” will be placed on the President’s or Dean’s honor roll, depending on specific GPAs

**Intersession course:** compacted course that meets the two weeks after a semester, but is the equivalent of taking it for one full semester

**M,T,W,R,F:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**Major:** primary course of study a student wishes to pursue

**Minor:** secondary course of study a student wishes to pursue

**MySpace:** online social network

**Part-time student:** student who is enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours in a Fall or Spring semester, or fewer than 6 hours in Summer

**Plagiarism:** using another’s work, whether directly quoted or summarized, without giving credit to the author; results in serious consequences

**Pre-requisite:** sometimes referred to as a “pre-req”; course that must be taken prior to enrolling in another course (ex. College algebra is a pre-requisite for calculus)

**Registrar:** university official who maintains academic records for all students

**Resident advisors (RAs):** students who work for the Residential Life department and are responsible for a specific group of student apartments

**Retention/Graduation GPA:** used to determine students’ eligibility to remain enrolled or graduate; activity courses and forgiven course work (course that has been repeated) are not calculated in this

**Scantron:** used for multiple choice testing; has bubbles to be filled in with pencil

**Schedule:** list of courses student is enrolled in, along with times, days, instructors, and locations

**Scholarships:** financial assistance awarded based on academics or other criteria; do not have to be paid back

**Section number:** identifies specific class (time, day, instructor) within a course (ex. General Biology may have section numbers of 001, 002, 003, etc)

**Semester:** portion of the academic year; fall and spring are 16 weeks, summer is 8 weeks

**Spring semester:** January through May

**Summer semester:** June through July

**Syllabus:** outline of what is expected in each class; given to student by instructor on first day of class

**Term GPA:** GPA for each individual semester

**Transcript:** official academic record of every course student has taken, along with grades and GPA

**Tuition:** charges for classes applied to student account upon enrollment

**Undergraduate:** student who has not yet earned a Bachelor’s degree

**WebCT:** system used for online courses

**Withdraw:** after the add/drop period; student receives a “W” on transcript; “W”s have no effect on a GPA

**Work-study:** eligibility determined by FAFSA results; student is employed on campus

**ZAP number:** primary identification number of a class; every single class available in a semester has its own ZAP

**Zero-level course:** remedial course that a student with a deficiency is required to pass with a “C” or better before moving on to college level course; does not count toward hours earned; is not included in GPA calculation