Glossary of Terms

This glossary is provided to assist students in understanding academic jargon used in this catalog/handbook.

accreditation: certification that an educational institution has met specific academic standards and requirements.

associate degree: a degree (at least 60 credits) granted by community colleges. (Some four-year colleges and universities also offer the associate degree.)

bachelor degree: a degree (at least 120 credits) granted by colleges and universities.

career programs: programs usually offered at community colleges that are geared toward preparing students for careers upon successful completion of the program.

cost of education: the total cost of your education, including tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation, and other miscellaneous living expenses.

course: organized subject matter in which instruction is offered within a given period of time and for which credit is usually given.

credit: the unit of measure used to record a student’s course load. (One credit usually represents one hour of class time a week in a given subject.)

curriculum: a systematic group of courses or sequence of subjects required for graduation or certification in a major field of study.

dean: a major officer of the college who is responsible under the president for the administration and supervision of instructional activities, fiscal affairs, or student services.

double major: a program of study in which a student completes the requirements of two distinct programs.

elective: a course chosen by a student, as opposed to one required by the college or department.

financial need: the difference between your total cost of education and what you and your family are expected to pay. This is the figure that determines the amount of financial aid for which you may qualify.

full-time student: an undergraduate taking at least 12 credits a semester. In order to graduate in two or four years, a student should average 15 credits a semester.

grant: a sum of money awarded as financial aid that does not have to be repaid.

learning disability: specific learning disability means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include individuals who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage (1977 U.S. Office of Education).

lecture: a method of teaching by which the instructor gives an oral presentation of facts or principles, the class usually being responsible for taking notes.

loan: a sum of money that you borrow and must repay. Student loans are often part of a financial aid package.

major: the program of study in which a student chooses to specialize. Students are required to take a certain percentage of their courses in their declared major.

matriculated: a student who is accepted by and enrolled in a college or university, and is working toward a degree.

non-matriculated: a student who is accepted by and taking classes at the college but is not working toward a degree.

Quality Point Average: a measure of average scholastic success in all subjects taken during the semester or accumulated over several semesters.

prerequisite: a course that a student is required to complete satisfactorily before enrolling in succeeding or advanced courses.

registrar: a college official responsible for maintaining student records, scheduling classes and examinations, and registering students.

scholarship: a form of financial aid that may be awarded based on academic or athletic achievement, or financial need. Scholarships usually do not have to be repaid.

syllabus: an outline of the topics to be covered in a course (or in a text).
transfer program: an education program offered by the community colleges specifically for students who plan to transfer and continue their studies at a four-year college or university.

Work-Study Program: a federal financial aid program that offers students the opportunity to combine employment with college study. The employment may be an actual part of an academic program, as in an internship, or simply a way to pay for college.