

Common Higher Education Terms

Degrees & Credentials

- **Bachelor's Degree** - An undergraduate degree (usually 120 credits)
- **Bachelor's Degree Completion Program** - A program designed for students finishing a bachelor's degree they previously started
- **Certificate** - A non-degree credential focused on a specific field or skill set (typically 12-36 credit hours)
- **Microcredential** - A short credential (typically 3-9 credits) focused on in-demand skills
- **Graduate Degree** - Advanced study after earning a bachelor's degree
- **Professional Learning/Education** - Skills-based courses that do not lead to a degree

Course Information

- **Credit Hour** - Indicates how much time a class requires and how it counts toward your degree (expect to spend 2-3 hours per week on coursework for each credit hour)
- **Corequisite** - A course that must be taken at the same time as another
- **Elective** - A course you can choose to take based on your interests
- **General Education Courses** - Foundational courses, such as English, math, and history courses, required for all students (called Core 39 in Indiana)
- **Prerequisite** - A course you must complete before taking another, more advanced course
- **Syllabus** - An outline of a course's expectations, assignments, and deadlines

Program Information

- **Class Standing** - Freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior (based on credits earned)
- **Degree Plan** - Your roadmap of required courses, typically made in conjunction with your academic advisor
- **Programmatic Accreditation** - Confirms a program meets professional standards

Transfer & CPL

- **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)** - Credit earned from work, military, or life experience that will count toward your degree
- **Transfer Credit** - Credits accepted from a previously attended institution
- **Transfer Student** - A student who is transferring from one college or university to another

Course Delivery Formats

- **Asynchronous** - An online course with no set meeting times
- **Hybrid** - A course with a mix of online and in-person requirements
- **Online Learning** - Courses completed fully online
- **Synchronous** - An online course with scheduled meeting times

Records & Graduation

- **Commencement** - A graduation ceremony at the college level
- **Conferral** - The process through which a degree is officially granted
- **Official Transcript** - A certified academic record issued directly from a high school or college
- **Unofficial Transcript** - An informal academic record for advising or personal use

Paying for College

- **FAFSA** - The application students complete to apply for financial aid
- **Fees** - Additional costs beyond tuition that help cover an institution's services and resources
- **Financial Aid** - Money to help pay for school
- **Grants and Scholarships** - A type of financial aid that does not need to be repaid
- **Loan** - A type of financial aid that accrues interest and needs to be repaid
- **Tuition** - The cost of your classes

Experiential Learning

- **Experiential Learning** - Learning through real-world experiences connected to your program
- **Externship** - A short-term experience where students shadow professionals in their field of study
- **Internship** - Supervised work experience in a student's field of study (can be paid or unpaid)
- **Practicum** - A required hands-on learning experience tied to a program
- **Service Learning** - Community service tied to course goals

Contact Us

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