

Post-Secondary: Important Terms To Know

ACADEMIC ADVISOR: a person from a post-secondary institution's student services who answers questions about registration, course selection, graduate requirements and program related questions.

ACADEMIC YEAR: the period of time usually from early September to late April, includes two consecutive semesters or terms (i.e., four months each).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: a set of rules that each post-secondary institution outlines for students to follow in order to gain acceptance into the institution. These can include specific courses, portfolio work, first aid certification etc.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: a program offered in secondary schools. Students who achieve specific grades in AP courses will receive credit or advanced standing in university courses.

APPLIED PROGRAMS: programs that are designed to lead to employment in a relatively specific field. These programs usually lead to 2-year diplomas, or are less than a year's duration and lead to certificates.

APPRENTICESHIP: a systematic program of on-the-job training supplemented by in-school instruction. Students must be employed in a trade area and become registered through their employer.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: a bachelor's degree is awarded upon completion of a program of study. Traditionally a bachelor's degree is four years in length.

CALENDAR: an annual publication, issued each year by post-secondary institutions to provide information regarding academic regulations, programs, courses, grading, and related topics.

CAMPUS: the location of a post-secondary institution. Some institutions have several different campus locations.

CERTIFICATE: a formal credential awarded upon successful completion of a program of study. Certificate programs usually require up to one year of study.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: non-credit courses, lectures, workshops, and seminars, usually offered in the evening or on weekends in a variety of areas, such as: general interest, employment, language skills, vocational, and business.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (COOP): a program that integrates classroom learning with semesters of paid practical work experience.

CO-REQUISITE: a course required to be taken at the same time as another course.

CREDIT: a value assigned by an institution to a course, to represent the quantity of work accomplished during a particular period of study.

DEGREE: an academic credential awarded by a university to students who have successfully completed a program of study. A Bachelor's degree is awarded for completion of undergraduate studies; a Master's degree or PhD is awarded for completing advanced studies beyond the undergraduate level.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM: a program that is one or two years long and leads to a diploma rather than a degree. They are usually geared toward employment in a particular field.

DISCIPLINE: a field of study within a department of a post-secondary institution.

DOMESTIC STUDENTS: students who are either Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

GED: General Education Development Test (i.e., grants Grade 12 equivalency)

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): a figure derived by using grade points--a numerical value given to an alphabetical letter grade--to compute an average measure of performance. Most GPAs are based on a four-point scale.

INTERNSHIP: a period of apprenticeship when students work off campus, under supervision, in a school, factory, hospital, business, laboratory, or government agency.

LAB: the segment of a course dedicated to experimental or practical activities. Most science courses have a lab component.

MAJOR: in universities, the specialization in one discipline, usually during the third and fourth years of study.

MATURE STUDENT: a category of admission generally for students who may not meet the academic requirements, but who qualify for entry based on previous work experience, existing skills, or age. Often there are residency requirements as well.

PASBC: Post-secondary Application Service of British Columbia

PREREQUISITE: requirement(s) that must be met before students may register in a particular course.

REGISTRATION: the process of selecting specific courses in a particular term. After students are admitted into an institution, they must complete the registration process to get the courses they desire.

RESIDENCE: buildings on campus where students can live during the school year.

SEMESTER: a type of term within an academic year - generally 12-13 weeks long.

SKILLED TRADE: an occupation, especially one requiring labour in a trade area such as carpentry, masonry, plumbing and electrical etc.

STUDENT FEES: a fee or combination of fees that is paid to the student associations or the institutions for services such as student activities, parking, recreation fees etc.

STUDENT LOAN: A major source of need-based financial assistance provided by the federal and provincial governments. The governments pay interest on the students loans while the borrower is engaged in full-time study but the borrower must begin repaying loan principal and interest 6 months after he/she ceases to be registered in at least 60% of a full course load.

TERM: A segment of time in the academic year (i.e., four months) also referred to as a semester.

TRANSCRIPT: an official record of all courses taken with credits and grades documented. A transcript for each student is maintained by the Admissions Office or Registrar's Office at all post-secondary institutions.

TRANSFER CREDIT: credit given at an institution for work successfully completed at another institution.

TUITION: the fee charged for post-secondary educational instruction.

UNIVERSITY: an educational institution that offers degrees at the bachelors, masters and doctoral levels.

UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE: institutions that offer their own university degrees, or degrees affiliated with other BC universities, in addition to offering college diploma, certificate, upgrading, and distance education programs.

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER (UT): credit programs of study, usually in arts, social sciences, and science courses, which are transferable toward degree programs at universities.

VOCATIONAL AND TRADES TRAINING: a variety of vocational, trades, and health education training and upgrading designed to meet employment needs.