



Common Terms on Campus

The University of Calgary uses several different terms and acronyms that may be unfamiliar to new students. Review the following list to enhance your understanding of some common terms used at the University of Calgary.

Program-related

- **Major:** The primary area of specialization in an undergraduate degree program. You may also choose to do two majors in the same degree, which is called a double major.
- **Minor:** A secondary area of study outside the “Major” area.
- **Co-operative Education/Internship:** The formal integration of academic study with work experience.
- **Open Option:** A course that allows you to explore an additional area of interest outside your chosen major or degree.
- **Change of Program:** You may elect to pursue a different program within your faculty, add on to your current degree, or enter a new program in a different faculty.

Course type and delivery

- **Units:** Units, also called ‘credits’, are a measurement system used to indicate the value of a course. Most courses are worth 3 units. Most undergraduate degree programs require 120 units for completion.
- **Course delivery:** Course components can be synchronous (participate at scheduled times), asynchronous (participate whenever convenient), or hybrid (mix of both). They can also be in-person or web-based.
- **Lectures:** Lectures are the main instructional component of a course where instructors introduce and work through the topics of the course.
- **Labs:** Secondary instructional component of a course where you can apply learning from lectures. The class size of lab sections is often smaller than the lecture.
- **Tutorials:** Secondary instructional component of a course where you can ask questions, discuss course and reading material, and receive additional assistance. They may or may not be mandatory.

Course registration

- **Add/Drop deadline:** The add/drop deadlines indicate the date by which courses can be added or dropped without incurring any penalties. The deadlines are available through the UCalgary [Academic Calendar](#).

- **Tuition:** The required fee for a course which is assessed at the rate indicated for the faculty offering the course. Fees are assessed when you register in a course(s). Due dates for tuition fees are available through the UCalgary [Academic Calendar](#).
- **Enrolment start time:** The date and time when you can begin enrolling in courses. You can find your enrolment start time in your Student Centre.
- **Withdrawal:** After the term drop deadline passes, you can use the drop function to withdraw from a class up until the last day of classes. The withdrawal will appear on your transcript as a "W" grade, and it will not count towards your GPA. Fees will not be refunded
- **Wait list:** If a course is full, you may be able to join a wait list and wait for a seat to open in the course (if this functionality is enabled by the faculty). If a student drops the class, a seat will open and be automatically filled by the next student on the wait list.
- **Pre-requisite:** This is a course that you must complete before you can enrol in the next level course. Most prerequisites require you to achieve a grade of C- or higher
- **Anti-requisite:** Two courses that cannot both be taken for credit because the content that is covered is too similar to one another.
- **Co-requisite:** When two courses must be taken simultaneously (in the same term).
- **Deferral of term work:** A temporary extension of time granted at the discretion of the faculty offering the course to complete course requirements.
- **Deferral of examinations:** Examinations scheduled by the Registrar for students who are unable to write regularly scheduled final examinations.
- **Block Week:** Block weeks are scheduled for 5 days at the start of Fall and Winter terms. Many credit courses are offered on block weeks and have an intensive structure.

Course type and delivery

- **GPA:** Each course grade is assigned a Grade Point Value. Grade Point Average (GPA) is the average of the grade point values earned by a student over all the courses taken.
- **Transcript:** A transcript is a record of a student's academic history that includes a student's program, faculty, courses taken, grades received, and degrees awarded.
- **Credit Granted:** A new flexible grade option, the CG grade counts toward degree requirements without affecting a student's grade point average (GPA). Each faculty has specific requirements for when CG grades can be requested, and their own policies regarding how CG grades will apply towards a degree and/or affect degree progression, which are outlined in the [Academic Calendar](#).
- **Academic Standing:** All faculties review student performance for continuation in their program after each winter semester provided students have completed a minimum number of courses. After each review, students will receive an academic standing. Each Faculty has a set of academic standing rules which students must meet in order remain in good academic standing. These rules can be found in the academic calendar. If a student does not meet the minimum academic requirements for a program following an academic review, they may be placed on academic probation or required to withdraw from their program.