

# Commonly Used College Terms

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*College students encounter a unique vocabulary, which includes specialized words, phrases, and abbreviations. The list below will assist in interpreting statements such as, "I thought my advanced medical **certificate** required **BIO** as a **co-requisite** with Anatomy, but my **prof** sent a notice through **Blackboard** informing me that the class is actually a **prerequisite**, so now I have to take Anatomy over the summer as a **blended** course in order to complete my program on time.*

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**Alumni** – the graduates or former students of an educational institution.

**Associate Degree** – an undergraduate academic degree awarded upon completion of a course of study usually lasting two years.

**Admissions** – the office or department responsible for reviewing applications and determining the admittance process of students.

**Academic Advisor** – person who provides valuable information to assist students with academic and career goals.

**ACCUPLACER**- is a computerized test that students who plan to attend WCC take to assess their skill levels in reading and English.

**ALEKS**- is a computerized test designed to determine which math course students are ready to take. This test covers material from Arithmetic through Pre-calculus and takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.

**Add/Drop** – term used to describe precise times during the registration period when courses can be added to or dropped from a student's schedule.

**Audit** – allows students to take a class without the benefit of a grade or credit for a course. A student who audits a course does so for the purposes of self-enrichment and academic exploration.

**Bachelor's Degree** – (also baccalaureate) an undergraduate academic degree awarded upon completion of a course of study usually lasting four years.

**Blackboard** – an e-learning management system which houses full online courses, blended (or hybrid) course content, and supplemental information for face-to-face courses.

**Blended Course** – (or Hybrid) courses in which some traditional face-to-face "seat time" has been replaced by online learning activities. Their purpose is to take advantage of the best features of both face-to-face and online learning.

**Certificate Program** – a sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focus upon an area of specialized knowledge or information and have specifically defined outcomes.

**CLEP** – 'College Level Examination Program' a plan that enables students to earn college credit for introductory-level courses by achieving satisfactory scores on subject-specific tests.

**College Transferrable Courses** – classes that may be transferred to a four-year university and possibly applied toward a bachelor's degree.

**College Prep Courses** – coursework that does not transfer to a four year university and is designed to assist students in building a particular skillset.

**Co-requisite** – a formal course of study required to be taken simultaneously with another class.

**Credit Hour** – the unit of measuring educational CREDIT, usually based on the number of classroom hours per week throughout a term.

**Electives** – courses chosen by a student from a number of optional subjects or courses in a curriculum, as opposed to specifically required courses.

**Extension Sites** – Off-campus locations – or satellite offices – where college classes are held.

**Faculty** – employees of a college or university who primarily teach/educate students.

**FAFSA** – Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

**Financial Aid** – Financial assistance for educational purposes that comes in four different types: grants; scholarships; loans; and work studies.

**In District** – typically referring to reduced tuition rates for students living within the same county / geographical area as the attending college.

**Lecture** – traditional, oral presentation courses where information is delivered primarily by the course instructor.

**Lab** – hands-on learning environment, most commonly associated with science courses.

**Office Hours** – prearranged times and dates when professors / instructors are available to work with students outside of class time.

**Override** – permission granted by the instructor to bypass any restrictions regarding course enrollment.

**Placement Testing** – see ACCUPLACER or ALEKS.

**Prerequisite** – a course that students must pass prior to enrolling in the next course in a sequence.

**ROLL-** (Ready for Online Learning) a free course that takes approximately 1-2 hours to finish and is created for students who have not taken an online class, but plan to register for one.

**STEM** – acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Syllabus** – an outline of the subjects in a course of study or teaching.

**Transcript** – a copy of a student's permanent academic record, including courses taken, grades received, honors received, and degrees earned.

**Withdrawal** – Process of stopping a course prior to completion. Refer to WCC's website for specific guidelines and timeframes, as there may be consequences for withdrawing from a course after specific dates in the semester.

**Waitlist-** When a class has reached its maximum capacity, students can add themselves to a waitlist. If a seat in that class opens, students are sent an email informing them of the ability to register in the course.