

Widely Used Glossary of Education Terms

Abbreviations for Degrees

- **AA:** Associate of Arts
- **AAS:** Associate of Applied Science
- **AAOT:** Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree
- **AAT:** Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer (English Literature)
- **AGS:** Associate of General Studies
- **AS:** Associate of Science
- **AST:** Associate of Science Transfer (Biology)
- **OTM:** Oregon Transfer Module

Academic Advisor

A member of a college who helps and advises students solely on academic matters.

Accreditation

Approval of colleges and universities by nationally recognized professional associations or regional accrediting bodies.

Add/Drop

A process at the beginning of a term whereby students can delete or add classes with an instructor's permission.

Associate Degree

A degree awarded after a two-year period of study. After completion, students may choose to continue their education to earn a bachelor's degree.

Bachelor's Degree

A degree awarded upon completion of approximately four years of full-time study.

Campus

The land on which the buildings of a college or university are located.

Community College

A postsecondary institution that offers associate degree programs as well as technical and vocational programs.

Course

Regularly scheduled class sessions of one to five (or more) hours per week during a term. A degree is made up of a specified number of required and elective courses, which vary from institution to institution.

Credits

Units that most colleges and universities use to record the completion of courses (with passing grades) that are required for an academic degree.

Degree

Diploma or title conferred by a college, university, or professional school upon completion of a prescribed program of studies.

Doctoral Degree

The highest academic degree conferred by a university to students (PhD) who have completed graduate study beyond the bachelor's and/or master's degree. Students demonstrate their academic ability through oral and written examinations and original research presented in the form of a dissertation.

Fees

An amount charged by colleges and universities, in addition to tuition, to cover costs of institutional services.

Financial Aid

A general term that includes all types of money, loans, and work/study programs offered to a student to help pay tuition, fees, and living expenses.

Higher Education

Postsecondary education at colleges, universities, professional schools, technical institutes, etc.

Master's Degree

Degree awarded upon completion of academic requirements that usually include a minimum of one year's study beyond the bachelor's degree.

Midterm Exam

An exam administered after half the academic term has passed that covers all class material up until that point.

Placement Test

An examination used to test a student's academic ability in a certain field so that they may be placed in the appropriate courses in that field.

Plan of Study

A detailed description of the course of study for which an instructor applies. The plan should incorporate the objectives given in the student's "statement of purpose."

Prerequisites

Programs or courses that a student is required to complete before being permitted to enroll in a more advanced program or course.

Registration

Process through which students select courses to be taken during a quarter, semester, or trimester.

SAT Subject Test

A multiple-choice test that measures knowledge in specific subject areas.

Scholarship

A study grant of financial aid, usually given at the undergraduate level, that may take the form of a waiver of tuition and/or fees.

Semester

Period of study lasting approximately 15 to 16 weeks or one-half of the academic year.

Syllabus

An outline of topics covered in an academic course.

Transcript

A certified copy of a student's educational record.

Transfer

The process of moving from one university to another to complete a degree.

Transfer Program

Associate degree program allowing the student to transfer into the third year of a four- year bachelor's degree program.

Tuition

The money an institution charges for instruction and training (does not include the cost of books or fees).

University

A postsecondary institution that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Withdrawal

The administrative procedure of dropping a course or leaving an institution.