

COLLEGE VOCABULARY

Academic Calendar: the division of an academic year into semesters or terms.

Academic Advisor: a person appointed by the college to help students with their course selections and assure that degree requirements are being met.

Admissions Advisor (or Counselor): a person appointed by the college to give students advice on the admission procedure. The admissions advisor also provides general information about the college to prospective students.

Alumnus or Alumna: a person who has graduated from a particular school, college, or university. (plural – alumni).

Baccalaureate Degree: traditional “college degree.” A bachelor’s degree usually represents four years of full-time (two semesters or three terms per year) of college study. The usual kinds of baccalaureate degrees are: Bachelor of Arts degree or Bachelor of Science degree.

Bachelor of Arts: the degree which is often called a B.A., usually earned in four years of college work; traditionally thought to mean that the student has studied for a major in non-science/mathematics areas.

Bachelor of Science: the degree often called a B.S., usually earned in four years of college work; traditionally thought to mean that a major area of student has been completed in science/math areas.

College: a school of higher education which grants associate or bachelor degrees; often used to refer generally to institutions of higher education.

Community College: a school of higher education that offers vocational, technical and transfer programs.

Credit Hours: the unit of measurement for educational achievement based on the number of class hours per week.

Financial Aid: money available to students who need help to pay their educational expenses; students apply for a combination of types of aid such as: loans, grants, work-study, and scholarships. Sources of financial aid are: the federal government, the State of Michigan, college financial aid offices, banks, and local and private funds.

Full-Time Student: a person who is enrolled for at least 12 semester credits or 12 quarter credits at one time (the exact number of credits may vary slightly at different colleges).

Liberal Arts: those areas of college study which are meant to provide general knowledge and to develop skills in reasoning, communication, analysis, and judgment (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, literature, the arts, and language); the opposite of liberal arts would be specific career-oriented studies such as engineering, business, and nursing.

Major: a field of study in which a student chooses to specialize, such as English, management, or engineering. Each college determines how many credits are needed for each major it offers.

Minor: an academic interest requiring fewer courses than a major; may be referred to as a concentration.

Orientation: a time set aside by the college to introduce new students to the college. Information from advisors about classes, registration, and housing is often discussed in these sessions.

Private College/University: institution not receiving general state support to help with operating expenses.

Scholarship: a monetary award given to a student in recognition of achievement and in some cases need; may be based on grades or leadership; award is in the form of partial or full tuition and/or dorm payment granted by some individual colleges, the State of Michigan, and private sources.

Undergraduate: general term to describe a college student who is working toward a bachelor's degree.

University: an institution of higher learning which has facilities for research and teaching and which is divided into different colleges or schools.