

Glossary

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The entries which follow have been prepared by the Calendar Editor for information only. If needed, official definitions should be obtained from a member of the Registrar's Office staff.

Academic Schedule

A schedule of events and deadlines of importance to students and prospective students, covering the period of the University's academic year, July 1 to June 30.

Academic Year

The term used to describe the twelve-month period from July 1 of one year through July 31 of the next.

Admission

Acceptance of a candidate for enrolment in a specified program and Faculty.

Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA)

The AGPA will be calculated on all university transferable coursework completed in the most recent two terms of study, provided they contain a minimum of ★24. If those two terms contain less than ★24, then all work in the next most recent term(s) will be included in the calculation until the minimum total of ★24 has been achieved. Full-session courses will be considered as second-term courses in these calculations. For applicants who have attempted less than ★24 of transferable postsecondary work, the AGPA will be based on all university or university transfer credits attempted.

Advanced Placement

The process whereby students are excused from taking a particular course (usually at the junior level), because they have already acquired the knowledge necessary to proceed into another course in the subject at a more advanced level. Advanced placement, unlike advanced standing, does not serve to reduce the number of courses that a student must complete for the degree.

Advanced Standing

See Transfer Credit.

Aegrotat Standing

Provision whereby a Faculty may grant deserving students credit in one or more courses in which they have missed the final examination because of illness.

Auditor

A person who has been permitted to register in a course for informational instruction only. Regular attendance at classes is expected, normally without participation in assignments or examinations, and without credit towards a degree or diploma.

Baccalaureate

A term relating to the bachelor's degree.

Calendar

An annual publication of academic regulations, schedules, programs of study, and course descriptions.

Candidacy Examination

The examination which tests doctoral students' knowledge of their discipline and of the subject matter relevant to their thesis, and their ability to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level.

Corequisite

The requirement, usually a course, that must be taken in conjunction with, or previously passed, when registering in a course with corequisite requirements.

Course Load Requirement

The number of courses a student is expected to take while in attendance in a given academic session.

Course Weight

See Units of Course Weight.

Credit

The quantitative measurement assigned to a course. At the University of Alberta a credit is equivalent to one unit of course weight.

Credit by Special Assessment (Credit by Challenge)

The procedure whereby a student may seek credit in certain specified courses without actually registering in and taking the courses at the University

of Alberta. This privilege is limited to students who have been admitted to the University.

Credit Course

A course that carries credit toward a degree or diploma.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)

A cumulative measure of a student's weighted average obtained by dividing the total grade points earned by the total units of course weight attempted by the student while registered in the Faculty since the first admission, or admission after being required to withdraw, or the date CGPA calculation was first implemented.

Deferred Final Examination

An examination written by a student, with permission of the student's Faculty, subsequent to the regular time of writing.

Degree with Distinction

The notation which is inscribed on the permanent record and graduation parchment of a candidate for any degree, except an honors or graduate degree, if the candidate has obtained a grade point average of 7.5 or higher over the last two years of the program.

Degree with Honors (Honors Program)

A four-year concentrated course of study under the supervision of one of the departments in the Faculty of Arts or Faculty of Science.

Department

The basic organizational unit in an institution of higher learning responsible for the academic functions in a field of study. The term department may also be applied to an administrative or service unit in an institution.

Domicile

Domicile is the place in which a person has a settled connection for legal purposes either because his or her true home is there or because it is assigned to him or her by law. It is the place where he or she is generally understood to reside with the intention of remaining there indefinitely or to which he or she returns after a temporary absence. The term residence as it refers to legal residence is used as synonymous with domicile.

Entrance Requirements

Academic background necessary for admission to a particular program of study.

Extension Students

Students who are registered in any of the courses offered by the Faculty of Extension which may or may not lead to certificate credit.

Extramural Students

Students granted the privilege of taking one or more courses by correspondence or directed studies without having to attend the University of Alberta or any of its off-campus centres.

Faculty

A formal subdivision within the University whose mission is the administration of programs and courses relating (usually) to common fields of study and academic disciplines.

Fee Index

See Units of Fee Index and Fee Index Value.

Fee Index Value

A dollar value set, normally annually, by the Board of Governors and used in the calculation of instructional fees. See also Units of Fee Index.

First-Class Standing

A distinction awarded to students who obtain a grade point average of not less than 7.5 while enrolled in a full, normal academic course load in the academic year in question.

Full Course

A course with a weighting factor of six or greater, that normally extends over two consecutive University terms.

Full-Time Students

Students who are registered for credit in the equivalent of ★9 or more in a Winter Session term. (Full-time calculation differs in the Intersession; refer to the Intersession Calendar for this definition).

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A 'sessional' measure of a student's weighted average obtained by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total units of course weight attempted 'in a session.'

Grade Points

A weighted value assigned to the grade a student receives in a course, obtained by multiplying the grade by the units of course weight. Used in computing grade point averages.

Graduate Students

Students admitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Half Course

A course with a weighting factor of less than six that normally extends over one University term.

Interdisciplinary Course

A course that is offered jointly by two or more departments, not necessarily in the same Faculty.

Intersession (May-August Summer Period)

A period of lessons and study during the months of May through August which is divided into two, six-week terms. The first-term runs from the first week of May to the second week of June, inclusive; the second-term runs from the first week of July to the second week of August, inclusive.

For Graduate Studies students, Intersession is a period from May through August for which those who are working full-time on their graduate program record their presence.

Intramural Students

Students who are attending the University of Alberta or any of its off-campus centres.

Limited Enrolment

A restriction on the number of students admitted to a program where there are invariably more qualified applicants than it is possible to accommodate.

Matriculated Applicants

Students eligible for admission to a university program because they have satisfied the regular admission requirements of the Faculty offering the program.

Mid-Session Examination

The examination written at the end of the first term of a session (ie. in December). For single-term courses the examination will be a final. For full-session courses it will be a mid-term examination.

Non-Matriculated Applicants

Students who are at least 24 years of age, and who are given permission to enrol in a degree program although they do not meet the regular admission requirements of a Faculty.

Open Studies (formerly The Unclassified Student Program)

Students registered in selected credit courses, but who are not admitted or committed to a degree or diploma program.

Part-Time Students

Students who are registered for credit in the equivalent of fewer than ★9 in a term. See Course Load Requirements.

Plagiarism

The submission by a student of the words, ideas, images, or data of another person as the student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project, or assignment in a course or program of study.

Prerequisite

The preliminary requirement, usually another course, which must be met or waived before a course can be taken.

Reading Week

A recess near the middle of the second term designed to allow students to catch up on outstanding reading and to prepare for the oncoming final examinations.

Reappraisals

The privilege of having the final examination paper re-read in a particular course.

Reexamination

The provision whereby students may be granted (subject to the conditions published by their Faculties) a further examination in a course if their standing following the final examination is unsatisfactory.

Registration

The process of selecting courses that are to be taken by a student in a term or session, usually in accordance with the relevant program specifications for a degree or diploma.

Residence Requirements

See Transfer Credit, Course Load Requirements, Domicile.

Seminar

A group of students who meet regularly for reports and discussion in an area of research under the guidance of a professor.

Session

A period of lessons and study. See Winter Session, Intersession, and Term.

Statement of Results

An unofficial copy of the student's year-end academic results, with neither an original signature nor a seal.

Term

Each session (Winter and Intersession) is divided into two terms of equal length for the purposes of registration and the scheduling of classes and examinations.

Term Examination

An examination which is conducted prior to the time that the instructional portion of a course has been completed.

TOEFL

Test of English as a Foreign Language.

Transcript

A statement of the student's entire official academic record bearing the original signature of an authorized member of the Registrar's staff and the official seal of the University.

Transfer Credit (Advanced Credit)

Course credit which an institution accepts towards a degree, and which the student has not earned in the course work at that institution. A student proceeding toward a first (bachelor's) degree at the University of Alberta must complete a minimum of one full year's program of studies at this University. Normally these studies constitute the final year of the program.

Tutorial

Instruction given to students individually or in small groups.

Unclassified Student

See Open Studies.

Undergraduate Student

Students registered in a Faculty other than the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Units of Course Weight

A numerical used in computing grade point average, which reflects the amount of class time devoted to the course.

Units of Fee Index

A numerical used in computing instructional fees for courses. It is normally twice the value of the Units of Course Weight for a course, but can be set differently by the Board of Governors when special fees considerations are made. See also Fee Index Value.

Weighting Factor

A unit used in the calculation of a student's overall grade point average. In most faculties a weight of six is assigned to a full-session course (or equivalent) and a weight of three to a single term course.

Winter Session

The twenty-six week teaching session which commences near the beginning of September and concludes in April.

Withdrawal

The voluntary cancellation of registration by a student who completes a "Withdrawal" form. The student notifies the appropriate authorities thereby making it an "Official Withdrawal". When the student merely stops attending classes without notifying authorities, or withdraws after the deadline, failing marks may be recorded. This is termed "Unofficial Withdrawal."