

Student

Term	Definition	Audience
Academic Calendar	The official calendar of the institution that lists key academic and administrative dates, including deadlines.	Student & Staff
Academic Leave	An interruption of studies for one or more time periods with definite plans to return. Note: The U.S. Department of Education's meaning of "leave of absence" has specific parameters that many traditional programs and institutions do not meet.	Student
Academic Standing	The state of a student's progress toward graduation.	Student & Staff
Academic Status	The state of a student's academic performance, which may result in temporary or permanent separation from the institution. Example: Academic probation, suspension, dismissal (negative), or dean's list (positive).	Student & Staff
Academic Year	A period of time schools use to measure a quantity of study.	Student & Staff
Accepts/Admits	Students who have been accepted into the institution.	Student & Staff
Applicants	Students who have submitted an application to the institution.	Student & Staff
Applicants (Completed)	Students who have submitted all necessary credentials in support of their application.	Student & Staff
Articulation Agreement	An official agreement between a community college and a four-year institution that designates the transferability of specific courses or degrees.	Staff
Audit	Signifies the course has not been taken for credit. Tuition and fees are sometimes charged (but may be a lower rate than for credit), but the student is not evaluated nor does the student receive a grade.	Staff
Award Letter	A letter that details federal, state, institutional, and private student financial aid.	Student & Staff
Award Year	The school year for which financial aid is used to fund a student's education.	Student & Staff
Class Level	Freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior. The level is usually determined by the number of credits completed, not by the number of years in attendance.	Student & Staff
Cost of Attendance (COA)	The total cost to attend school for the academic year.	Student & Staff
Course Transcripts	The transcript is a chronological order of a student's academic history. It contains courses taken at other institutions, as well as current academic history at their home institution. Also included are any placement exams taken and passed. The transcript academics are split by terms, and each term, in two sections. The top section contains courses taken or currently enrolled. The bottom section contains the current and cumulative hours or points and GPA.	Student & Staff
Curriculum	An organized program of study offered at an institution.	Student & Staff
Direct Loan Program	Student loans provided by the U.S. Department of Education to enable a student to pay for education after high school. Eligible students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education at participating schools.	Student & Staff
Disbursement	Payment of funds to the borrower by the school. Can be scheduled or anticipated and actual (when funds are paid out).	Student & Staff
Dual Enrollment	A program through which high school students may enroll in college courses while still enrolled in high school. Students are not required to apply for admission to the college in order to participate.	Student & Staff
Earned Hours/Units	The total number of earned hours that count toward the student's career.	Student & Staff
ED	U.S. Department of Education.	Student & Staff
Eligible Program	A program of organized instruction or study of a certain length that leads to an academic, professional, or vocational degree or certificate, or other recognized education credential.	Student & Staff

Endorser	Someone who does not have an adverse credit history and agrees to repay the loan if the borrower does not repay it.	Student & Staff
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA is a form that must be completed annually to help determine eligibility for federal student aid.	Student & Staff
Federal Work Study (FWS)	A part-time work program awarding on or off-campus jobs to students who demonstrate financial need. FWS positions are primarily funded by the government, but are also partially funded by the institution. FWS is awarded to eligible students by the college as part of the student's financial aid package. The maximum FWS award is based on the student's financial need, the number of hours the student is able to work, and the amount of FWS funding available at the institution. This is a type of Title IV aid but is not considered grant aid to students.	Student & Staff
Financial Aid Package	The types and amounts of financial aid (federal and non-federal) a student is offered by the school to help pay educational costs.	Student & Staff
Financial Need	The difference between the cost of attendance (COA) at a school and a student's expected family contribution (EFC). While COA varies from school to school, the student's federal EFC does not change based on the school they attend.	Student & Staff
First-time Freshman	A student who has not previously enrolled in an institution of higher education, but who may have earned some college units prior to matriculation.	Student & Staff
FTE (of students)	The full-time equivalent (FTE) of students is a single value providing a meaningful combination of full-time and part-time students.	Student & Staff
GED (General Educational Development)	Refers to the tests of General Educational Development (GED), which provide an opportunity to earn a high school credential.	Student & Staff
Grade Type	The type of grading method selected by the student for a course. Grade type is required for enrollment in the course or assigned by the registrar's office staff to handle special grading considerations, e.g. pass/fail, audit, graded.	Student & Staff
Grants	Monetary gifts to people who are pursuing higher education. Unlike student loans, grants do not require repayment.	Student & Staff
Incomplete	A grade given to students whose work in a course has been qualitatively satisfactory but who, due to illness or other circumstances, are unable to complete the course requirements. The student makes a contract with the instructor, specifying the work to be completed, which must be completed before a regular grade can be assigned. Usually, the work must be completed prior to the end of the subsequent semester.	Student & Staff
Inquiries	Students who have expressed interest in the institution.	Student & Staff
Leave of Absence	See Academic Leave.	Student & Staff
Lender	The organization that made the loan initially; the lender could be the borrower's school, a bank, credit union, other lending institutions, or the U.S. Department of Education.	Student & Staff
Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)	The amount of all federal pell grant aid (in percentage) awarded to a student divided by the amount of pell grant aid the student would have been eligible to receive based on full-time enrollment. The amount of federal pell grant funds a student may receive over his or her lifetime is limited by federal law to be the equivalent of six years of pell grant funding.	Student & Staff
Loan	Money that a student borrows and must repay with interest.	Student & Staff
Loan Fee (Origination Fee)	A fee charged for each federal student loan that is a percentage of the total loan amount borrowed (gross amount). The loan fee is deducted proportionally from each disbursement of the loan. This reduces the actual loan amount received (net amount). Students are required to repay the gross amount.	Student & Staff
Loan Period	The portion of the academic year for which the loan is requested.	Student & Staff
Master Promissory Note (MPN)	A legal document that is a promise to repay a federal student loan or loans and any accrued interest and fees to the lender or loan holder. There is one MPN for direct subsidized or unsubsidized loans and a different MPN for direct PLUS loans.	Student & Staff
Matriculants	Students who have begun their academic career at the institution and are eligible to enroll.	Student & Staff

Merit-based	Based on a student's skill or ability. Example: A merit-based scholarship might be awarded based on a student's high grades.	Student & Staff
Need	The cost of attendance minus the student's expected family contribution.	Student & Staff
Net Price	An estimate of the actual cost that a student and the student's family need to pay in a given year to cover education expenses for the student to attend a particular school. Net price is determined by taking the institution's cost of attendance and subtracting any grants and scholarships for which the student may be eligible.	Student & Staff
NSLDS (National Student Loan Data System)	The central database for student aid. The NSLDS receives data from schools, guaranty agencies, the direct loan program, and other federal student aid programs.	Student & Staff
Official Grade	The grade assigned to the student for a course.	Student & Staff
Origination Fee	See Loan Fee.	Student & Staff
Payment Plan	Payment method designed to assist those students and their families who may find it difficult to pay the total semester bill by the due dates. The institution or an outside company can administer families to divide charges into monthly payments without penalty and/or interest.	Student & Staff
Perkins Loan	A loan made under the federal Perkins Loan program for students with exceptional financial need. Perkins Loans are administered by the school.	Student & Staff
PLUS Loan	Loans for eligible graduate or professional students and eligible parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for the cost of the student's education at participating schools.	Student & Staff
Post Baccalaureate Teacher Certification Program	A program for students who have already earned a bachelor's degree that (1) does not lead to a graduate degree, (2) is treated as an undergraduate program, and (3) consists of courses required by a state in order for the student to receive a certification or license to teach in an elementary or secondary school in that state.	Student & Staff
Prerequisite	A requirement that must be completed prior to enrollment in a particular class. This can be a placement test score or a course. Example: Accounting 101 must be taken prior to Accounting 102.	Student & Staff
Propriety School	A private, for-profit school that provides education and training.	Student & Staff
Prospects	Students who have not yet expressed interest in the institution, such as students whose names and addresses were purchased from a list vendor.	Student & Staff
Provost	The chief academic officer of an institution.	Staff
Quality Hours/Units	The student's total number of quality hours earned toward a career. Quality hours are registered hours that are divided into quality points to determine a student's GPA.	Student & Staff
Quality Points	The student's total number of grade points. These are divided by quality hours to determine a student's GPA.	Student & Staff
Registered Hours	The number of credits a student will receive upon successful completion of a course.	Student & Staff
Remedial Coursework	Coursework to prepare a student for study at the post-secondary level (as opposed to preparatory coursework, which prepares a student for a given program). A student enrolled solely in a remedial program is not considered to be in an eligible program. The student may count up to one academic year's worth of these courses in his enrollment status for federal aid. For the purpose of this limit, that is 30 semester or trimester hours, 45 quarter hours, or 900 clock hours.	Student & Staff
Satisfactory Academic Progress	A school's standards for satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate offered by that institution. Check with your (student and staff) school to find out its standards.	Student & Staff
Scheduled Award	The maximum grant amount a student is eligible to receive for the award year if they are enrolled full-time for the full school year. This amount is calculated from the information the student and their family provided when filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).	Student & Staff

Stealth Applicants	Students who made their first contact by submitting an application without inquiring beforehand; often categorized dually as applicants and inquiries.	Student & Staff
Student Aid Report (SAR)	A summary of the information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that provides students with their expected family contribution (EFC).	Student & Staff
Student's Career	The academic career to which the cumulative statistics apply. Categories are undergraduate, graduate, or professional.	Student & Staff
Subsidized Loan	A federal student loan for which (in some cases) a borrower is not responsible for paying the interest while in an in-school, grace, or deferment period.	Student & Staff
Transfer Credit	Credit taken at collegiate institution that is transferable to another institution.	Student & Staff
Transfer Hours	The student's total number of transfer hours associated with a career.	Student & Staff
Unofficial Transcripts	A report that includes the same course and grade information as the official transcripts. However, these reports are not considered official because they do not have the official university seal imprinted on them and are not suitable for transfer purposes. Unofficial transcripts are used primarily for student reference.	Student & Staff
Unsubsidized Loan	A federal student loan for which the borrower is fully responsible for paying the interest, regardless of the loan status.	Student & Staff
Verification	The process a student's school uses to confirm that the data reported on a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is accurate. The student's school has the authority to contact their students for documentation that supports income and other information that the students reported.	Staff