

College Terms

The following is offered as an explanation of common terms used at Sacramento City College and other community colleges and universities:

ADVISORIES: recommended courses and/or skill levels to meet prior to enrolling in the course or program to ensure success.

ASSESSMENT TEST: Assessment tests are used to recommend English, English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) and Math classes. These classes are prerequisites to many classes and are required as part of an AA/AS Degree or transfer program. For these reasons, students should have these Assessment results before seeing a counselor.

A.A., ASSOCIATE IN ARTS: a general degree granted by California Community Colleges.

A.S., ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE: a general degree granted by California Community Colleges having emphasis on two-year career-technical training than the A.A. degree.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: a degree granted by four-year colleges/universities, usually the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or the Bachelor of Science (B.S.).

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT (COA): intended to certify that students completing all required courses for a major are prepared to enter the careers designated on their certificates. Certificates of Achievement require 12 units or more with grades of "C" or better in each course. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Sacramento City College.

CERTIFICATES (C): intended to certify that students completing all required courses are prepared to meet specific occupational needs, upgrade skills, or for advancement in an existing career. Certificates require 11.5 units or less with grades of "C" or better in each course. The certificate requires completion of all courses listed in the Required Program of study.

CLASS SCHEDULE: the listing of courses with days, time, instructors, and room locations to be offered each semester.

COREQUISITE: a course in which a student is required to enroll at the same time as another course.

COUNSELOR: a trained faculty member assigned to assist students with academic, career, personal, and crisis intervention.

COURSE TRANSFERABLE TO: identifies the transfer status of a course to the University of California (UC) and/or California State University (CSU) systems.

CREDIT GRADING: a course for which units and a letter grade are granted.

ELECTIVES: courses elected by the student that do not fulfill a major or general education requirement but provide units toward the degree.

ENROLLMENT LIMITATION: courses, skill level, or other requirements a student must meet prior to enrollment in a course or program.

GENERAL EDUCATION: certain group of courses required of all degree candidates regardless of their major. These differ for the A.A. and A.S. degrees and for transfer.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.): the average grade of all units attempted by a student.

INTERSEGMENTAL GENERAL EDUCATION TRANSFER CURRICULUM (IGETC): Completion of all the requirements in the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum will permit a student who transfers from a community college to a campus in either the California State University or University of California systems to satisfy that university's lower-division general education requirements prior to transfer.

LOWER DIVISION: the first two years of college work, i.e., freshman and sophomore years and/or courses.

MAJOR: the major field of study a student plans to pursue, e.g., biology, nursing.

MATRICULATION: an agreement between the college and each student as to the steps both will take to help ensure the student succeeds.

MINOR: the field of study a student plans to pursue in addition to the major but with less emphasis. A minor is not required.

NON-CREDIT (UNGRADED): course for which no units are given.

PASS/NO PASS: a grading system allowing a course to be taken for Pass or No Pass rather than for a letter grade. A student will be granted Pass if a "C" grade or better is earned.

PREREQUISITE: a course or skill level a student must meet prior to enrollment in a course or program. If required, prerequisites are listed with the course description.

SEMESTER UNIT: In general, a semester unit represents one hour of lecture or three hours of laboratory per week for a semester. Most AA/AS degrees require a minimum of 60 semester units. One semester unit is equivalent to one and a half quarter units.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD: an official copy of a student's college record prepared by the Admissions and Records office.

UPPER DIVISION: the last two years of college work, i.e., junior and senior years and/or courses. Upper division courses are only offered at four-year colleges/universities.