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Glossary of Academic Terms

**Capstone** means “culminating” or “crowning.” It is used to describe a course that is the culminating experience for a program of study.

**Cognates** are required courses in disciplines related to the major. Cognates are intended to broaden and enhance the major.

**Concentration** is the area of specialization. Courses in the concentration are a group of courses that relate specifically to the student’s area of study.

**Content major** refers to the disciplinary course work taken by students in elementary education.

**Core**  courses within General Education consist of three courses that provide an introduction to college-level writing and interdisciplinary seminars at both freshman and upper levels.

**Distribution**  courses within General Education consist of one course from each of the following seven areas: Arts—Visual and Performing, History, Literature, Mathematics, Natural Science (lab required), Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Advanced Quantitative/Scientific Reasoning.

**Electives** are courses that students may choose beyond their required courses in order to fulfill degree requirements.

**Enrolled** means a student has been admitted to the college and/or a program and has registered for courses.

**Full-Time student** is a student taking 12 to 18 credit hours per semester.

**Major** is the discipline or academic area in which the student engages in in-depth study. Majors normally require a minimum of 30 credit hours.

**Matriculate** means to be admitted formally to a degree program.

**Minor**  is a secondary specialization in a degree program and normally requires a minimum of 18 credit hours.

**Mode of Instruction**

• **Standard Classroom** is a course that meets at a pre-determined time and place, in-person, on a regular schedule throughout the term. The course may include use of online learning management system(s).

• \***Hybrid** is a course in which a portion of standard classroom instruction is replaced by online learning.

• **Distance** is a course in which all teaching and learning takes place online. There are no in-person meetings.

\*All General Education Connections courses **must** include at least 50% Standard Classroom instruction.

**Part-Time student** takes fewer than 12 credit hours per semester.

**Program of study** usually consists of the following: General Education courses, courses in the major, cognate courses, and elective courses.

**Retention Requirements**  must be met in order to remain enrolled at the college and/or in a program.

**Teacher preparation program** is a term used in the elementary education, secondary education, and K–12 programs to describe the major and other requirements needed to be eligible for certification as a teacher.

**Teaching concentration in special education** is a term used in the elementary education and secondary education program and refers to a group of courses in special education taken in addition to required courses in elementary education or secondary education.

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