

Commonly Used Advising Terms

24 hour clock: Also known as "military time," this 24 hour clock is the time-keeping method used in the class schedule. The day runs from midnight to midnight. For instance, 2:00 pm would read as 14:00.

Academic Coordinator/Advisor: Academic coordinators (advisors) provide initial advising as well as on-going assistance in meeting WSU graduation requirements.

Alive! New Student Orientation: Alive! is a two and a half day program offered during the summer months designed to prepare you for the start of classes in the fall. Whether you're a freshman, transfer student, or parent, you'll find things to interest and excite you. All new students (transfer and freshman) are required to attend an orientation/registration program in order to enroll for the fall semester.

Associated Students of Washington State University (ASWSU): Students are represented through an elected student senate, an appointed judicial board, and an executive staff. Together the senate and executive staff plan and implement social, recreational, and cultural programs with a budget funded through Services and Activities (S&A) Fees.

Bachelor's Degree: The undergraduate degree offered by four-year colleges and universities.

Certificate program: A program designed to build skills in a specific area. Some may require a bachelor's degree prior to starting.

Certification: Minimum requirements (or standards) to major in a specific program.

College requirements: Requirements developed by the college under which a field of study falls. May include specific courses and grade point average (GPA).

Core requirements: The courses required in a specific major.

CougarCard: As your official University ID, the CougarCard is your passport to life at WSU. WSU students, faculty and staff use their CougarCard over ten million times each year. You'll use it for everything from checking out books at the library to building and bus access. The CougarCard office is located in room G60 of the Compton Union Building (CUB).

Credit: Students must earn 120 credits to earn a degree. Most WSU courses are 3 credits.

Degree: The formal title on the student's diploma and transcript.

Degree Audit Report: is an automated record that shows students their progress toward completing an undergraduate degree in a particular major.

Electives: Courses not required for major or minor, but can be applied toward graduation.

Financial Aid: Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, loans, and part-time employment from federal, state, institutional and private sources. These types of aid are combined to create an "award package." The types and amounts of aid students receive are determined by financial need, available funds, student classification, academic performance, and sometimes the timeliness of application.

GUC TBS: This stands for General University Classroom, To Be Scheduled. This is a notation that indicates a room has not yet been assigned.

Lab: Labs are hands on learning opportunities where undergraduates work with faculty or graduate students to apply concepts and theories. Labs can be connected to lectures such as Physics 101 or they may stand alone.

Lecture: The full class meets during the lecture portion of a class and the primary emphasis is on the instructor lecture.

Lower-division Courses: 100- and 200-level (freshman or sophomore) courses.

Major/Major Concentration: A major is a set of courses that introduce students to an in depth study of an academic area.

Minor: Students who have completed 60 semester hours and are certified in a major, may certify a minor with the approval of the department concerned.

myWSU: This web-based student information system has features to help students complete online university business quickly and easily. Services for current undergraduate, graduate, and non degree seeking students are provided.

Prerequisites: Courses that prepare students for higher level courses.

Pre-major: Students who have selected a major but have not yet certified in that major.

Schedule Line Number (SLN): This is the unique number that every class section throughout the WSU system is assigned. This is the number that you will enter into myWSU to register for each individual class.

Section: Different class time choices for the same course. For example, English 101 meets at a number of different times. Section one, or Engl 101 01 is offered at 12:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Section two, or Engl 101 02 is offered at 14:50 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Semester: Half of an academic year. A semester is 16 weeks in length. Fall semester starts in August and ends in December. Spring semester starts in January and ends in May.

Transcript: A permanent record of all the classes taken and grades earned by the student while in high school or college. It may also show honors or awards.

Transfer Credit Report (TCR): The TCR offers information about how courses completed at other institutions will apply toward WSU requirements.

Transfer Credits: Some students attend more than one college during their college careers. When they move or transfer from one college to another, they can transfer certain credit hours or classes from the previous college to the current one. The current college determines which courses will count toward its graduation requirements.

Tuition: The amount colleges charge for each hour of class time. Tuition does not include the cost of books, fees, room, or board (food). Tuition charges also vary from college to college.

Undeclared: Students who are exploring major options and have not yet made a selection.

Undergraduate: Another word for bachelor's degree or 100 through 400 level courses.

Upper-division Courses: Refers to 300- or 400-level (junior or senior) courses.

Writing Portfolio: A graduation requirement that includes the submission of writing samples from class work and the completion of one timed writing exercise. See your academic coordinator for more information.