

# Terms You Need to Know

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As you become more familiar with the university environment, you will also become aware of a new set of terms and vocabulary that are frequently used as part of university-speak. The following definitions are a part of the language of the university with which you should be familiar.

## **Academic Advisor**

A faculty member or full-time professional employee in your chosen academic field who will serve as your resource to academic and nonacademic services. He or she will sign your graduation papers when you have completed all requirements. Find your advisor at <http://catalog.usu.edu>.

## **Academic Standing**

A status based upon the number of credits earned and the USU cumulative GPA. Academic statuses include: Good Standing, Academic Warning, Provisional Admission Warning, Academic Probation, Academic Suspension, and Academic Dismissal.

## **Academic Warning**

A freshman student who has less than a 2.0 USU cumulative GPA is placed on academic warning. Warning is an indication that academic performance is low, but not low enough to be placed on probation as a freshman.

## **Class Standing**

Student status according to the number of credits earned (EHRS), not the number of years of school attended. 30 EHRS = sophomore, 60 EHRS = junior, 90 EHRS = senior.

## **College**

An administrative division of the university representing a group of related departments and disciplines.

## **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)**

A series of tests taken to demonstrate proficiency in various college subjects. Credit for certain college courses can be earned if tests are passed.

## **Complete Withdrawal**

Dropping all courses and leaving school. <http://www.usu.edu/loa>

## **Credit Hour**

A unit of credit given at colleges (generally one credit for one contact hour per week).

## **Cumulative GPA**

The cumulative GPA is the average of all grades received (excluding "P" grades). The USU cumulative GPA is the average of all grades received at USU (excluding "P" and "I" grades).

## **Dean**

The chief administrator of a college. The dean can grant exceptions to academic policy.

## **Dean's List (Honor Roll)**

An academic honor roll recognizing students who have achieved at least a 3.500 GPA in 15 or more graded credits, except for summer semester for which 12 or more graded credits are required.

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## **Department**

An academic division of a college with a specific curriculum for students.

## **Drop**

Withdrawal from a course without penalty if done during a specific time. Can affect financial aid status and graduation date.

## **Earned Hours (EHRS)**

The number of credits completed with a grade of *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, or *P*.

## **Electives**

Electives are courses taken which do not count toward fulfillment of any University Studies, college, major, or minor requirements, but which do count toward the total credits needed for graduation.

## **Faculty**

Faculty are members of the university staff who have appointments as: adjunct, lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor. Faculty are responsible for the academic policies and requirements established by the university.

## **Final Exams**

Last tests, usually written, given at the end of the semester. Final exams may or may not be comprehensive.

## **Financial Aid**

Scholarships, grants, and loans awarded on the basis of need, merit, or other criteria, and used to help pay tuition and other costs. Some forms of aid are gifts, but others are loans that must be repaid with interest.

## **Full-time Student**

A student enrolled for 12 or more credits during a semester.

## **Good Standing**

A student is considered to be in "good standing" when his/her USU cumulative GPA is 2.0 or higher.

## **GPA Hours**

The number of credits (units) for which a student receives a grade other than a *P*. Used in calculating a student's GPA.

## **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

GPA is the numerical average of grades earned in courses giving *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, and *F* grades. Most colleges base grades on a four-point scale. The pass (*P*) grade does not have grade point value.

## **Honors Program**

A program that provides capable students with opportunities to broaden and enrich their undergraduate general education experiences, as well as accelerate their preparation for graduate school.

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## **Incomplete Grade (I)**

A temporary grade given at the discretion of the professor to allow a student more time to complete required work (maximum extension is 12 calendar months). This grade may be assigned only when a student is unable to complete all of the work in a course due to extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance.

## **Independent Study**

A course which a student completes on his or her own time, under the direction of a professor and normally outside a classroom setting. At USU, these courses are offered through Distance Education, usually by online correspondence.

## **Internships**

Work experiences available for which a student can also earn credit.

## **Leave of Absence**

The process to discontinue studies for one or more semesters (other than summer semester). Leaves of Absence are generally granted for reasons relating to: illness or health, military service, employment, humanitarian or church service, family responsibilities, and financial obligations. <http://www.usu.edu/loa>

## **Major**

Principal field of academic specialization, or concentrated program of study in one academic department or in an interdisciplinary program. A major usually requires 30 to 70 semester credit hours of coursework.

## **Matriculate**

To enroll in a degree-granting program of the university.

## **Minor**

A field of academic emphasis requiring fewer credits than a major field.

## **Part-Time Student**

A student is considered to be a part-time student when he or she is enrolled for less than 12 credits.

## **Pass/D+, D, F Option**

Under this option, the "P" grade carries no grade points and is not calculated in the student's GPA.

## **Prerequisite**

A course, cluster of courses, or other condition that must be completed as a condition for taking another course.

## **Probation**

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are placed on academic probation when their USU cumulative GPA falls below 2.0.

## **Professor**

Highest rank for a member of the university faculty. Also, a generic term used to refer to an individual who is responsible for teaching a course.

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## **Provisional Admission Warning**

An undergraduate student who is admitted provisionally and must satisfy certain requirements before being allowed to continue at the university.

## **Quality Points (QPTS)**

The numerical value given to each letter grade (*A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, or *F*) earned in a class. A *P* (pass) grade does not earn quality points.

## **Readmission**

A return to the university following an interruption in attendance.

## **Registrar**

University officer who keeps records on the enrollment and academic standing of students.

## **Registration**

Process of enrolling in classes at the university.

## **Resident**

Being considered as a resident of Utah for payment of tuition purposes. Utah residents pay lower tuition than nonresidents.

## **Sabbatical**

A college professor's leave of absence with pay for further study and research.

## **Section**

The different classes offered for a single course. For example: PSY 1010, section 1; PSY1010, section 2.

## **Student Handbook/Planner**

Publication containing information about campus resources, academic policies and procedures, dates and deadlines, and the student code.

## **Suspension**

Dismissal from the university for failure to meet semester 2.0 GPA requirement while on probation.

## **Transcript**

Official record of a student's college work, which is maintained and updated each semester by the Registrar's Office.

## **Transfer Credit**

Credit conveyed from one institution to another.

## **Tuition**

Fees assessed to help defray the costs of instruction.