

28. GLOSSARY OF ACADEMIC TERMS

Academic advisor

Provides advice to students about university of Regina degree programs and academic regulations, practice, and procedures.

Academic unit

A university of Regina faculty, federated college, school, department, or institute.

Academic year

May 1 to April 30.

Affiliated college

A college affiliated with the university is a post-secondary institution, legally and financially independent, whose academic affairs, whole or in part, are governed by the senate of the university without the institution's becoming academically merged with the university.

Alternate credit

Only one of two possible credit values may be granted for these courses.

Athletic award

A grant of money to a student who participates in Canadian inter-university sport competition. These awards are governed by CIS regulations.

Audit (AU)

To audit a course is to attend without working for or expecting to receive formal credit. An audit grade carries no credit.

Bursary

An award of money towards fees based on financial need.

Challenge credit

Credit granted for demonstrating mastery of the content of a course and hence the need not to take the course.

Class

An individual meeting of the instructor with the students enrolled in a section of a course.

Cognate course

A course with content closely related to and supporting the content of another course.

Community education centres (CECS)

These are faculty of social work educational satellites intended to assist in the development of province-wide practicum resources and to make part-time studies accessible to an increased proportion of the province's population.

Concentration

1. A focus within a program, usually within a major, comprising a cluster of courses on a particular theme or topic.
2. A disciplinary component of a multidisciplinary degree program

Convocation

An assembly of the members of the university to recognise the admission of students to degrees and certificates and to announce prizes, awards, and honours. Convocation is held twice a year, in May or June, and October.

Co-operative work/study program

A program wherein students spend alternate semesters engaged in paid employment that closely relates to and enhances their academic studies.

Corequisite

A required course that is to be taken simultaneously with another.

Course

A set of lectures, seminars, and laboratory sessions dealing with a particular topic or number of related topics. Normally, courses at the university of Regina run over a whole semester and carry 3 credit hours.

Credential

A degree, diploma, or certificate.

Credit hour

The unit measuring educational credit, usually consisting of one weekly period lasting approximately one hour, or a given number of periods of laboratory work throughout one semester a course timetabled to

run three hours each week will therefore usually carry 3 credit hours. Some courses carry fewer credit hours, some more.

Deferred examination (DE)

Postponement of an examination for legitimate reasons.

Department

A division of a faculty concerned with a specific branch of instruction or study.

Discipline (as subject area)

A branch of learning or field of study.

Distinction

A high standard of achievement in degree work, based on a graduating PGPA of 80.00% to 84.99%. The highest standard is great distinction, reserved for those graduating with a PGPA of 85.00% or more.

Double major

A major satisfying requirements for subject majors in two disciplines. Double majors require consultation with both departments concerned.

Elective

A course of the student's choice.

Exemption (EX)

This term is used when previous education, training or experience provides exemption from prerequisites and certain specific requirements. No credit hours are attached. Students may be required to take another course in lieu of the one(s) for which they are given exemption.

Expulsion

Dismissal for an indefinite period (in no case less than two calendar years). Students must petition to the council discipline committee for permission to apply for readmission.

Faculty (arts, education, social work, etc.)

Faculties comprise related disciplines grouped for the purposes of administration and academic planning.

Federated College

A college federated with the university is a post-secondary institution, legally and financially independent, but academically integrated with the university.

Full course load

Fifteen credit hours (normally five three-credit-hour courses) is considered to be a full course load for one semester.

Full-time student

For undergraduate students, one who is registered in 9 or more credit hours of study per semester.

GPA (grade point average)

A GPS is an average of numeric grades, adjusted for variations in the credit hours that are assigned to the courses on which the average is based. That is, a grade in a 3-credit-hour course has double the value in the average calculation than a grade in a 1.5-credit-hour course has. GPAs are calculated at the University of Regina for each semester (term PGA or TPGA), for a student's program (program GPA or PGPA), and for a student's whole academic record (undergraduate GPA or UGPA and cumulative GPA or CGPA). Refer to §5.10.2 for more information about GPAs and how they are calculated and used.

Honours

A degree program in which students take a more intensive concentration in their major area.

Incomplete (IN)

An interim grade assigned when term work is deferred for legitimate reasons.

International exchange agreements

Agreement between a post-secondary institution abroad and the University of Regina that includes the general objectives of the exchange, the start and completion dates of the agreement, and the terms of agreement of the exchange. Exchange agreements may involve students, research, instructors, etc.

Joint program

A joint program is one that is co-offered by the University of Regina and another post-secondary institution, in which each institution contributes unique courses to the program. Students enrolled in a joint program attend both participating institutions; attendance patterns vary by program.

Letter of permission

A letter confirming that a student will be granted transfer credit for a certain number of credit hours based upon successful completion of courses at another post-secondary institution.

Major

A subject of academic study chosen as a field of specialisation.

Matriculation

To matriculate is to be officially admitted to the university after having met entrance requirements.

Minor

An option within a degree program whereby students can opt for coverage of a subject area less complete than that necessary for a major.

Non-contributory courses - pass/fail grading

In some faculties, students may have the privilege of designating a limited number of credit courses as being non-contributory to the computation of their GPA. This means that they will not be included in the calculation of their GPA. Courses to be taken on a non-contributory basis must be so designated at the time of registration and must be approved by the student's faculty or college. For more information on non-contributory (pass/fail) courses, students should contact their faculty offices.

No paper (NP)

When a student fails to write the final examination or fails to complete a mandatory component of a course, a grade of NP is assigned. An NP is a failing grade and is treated as 40% in the calculation of a student's GPA.

Numerically-graded course

A course graded on the percentage scale. Grades of 0-100%, NP and XF are considered numeric grades.

Open elective

A course of the student's choice from any faculty.

Overload

More than the full course load. Must be approved by the student's faculty or federated college.

Part-of-term (POT)

A code used to designate the length of time over which a course section is to be offered. It normally does not include examination days. For example, in the fall and winter semesters, part of term 1 runs from the first day of classes to the last day of classes.

Part-time student

For undergraduate students, one who is registered in fewer than 9 credit hours of study per semester.

Pass/fail grading

See non-contributory courses above

Plagiarism

To take the ideas, writings, findings, computer software, etc. Of another and present them as one's own. Plagiarism is a very serious offence within the academic community.

Pre-professional program

The period preceding specific study for or practice of a professional program.

Prerequisite

A course that a student must complete before being admitted to another.

Prize

A reward for academic merit. Continued studies in not a condition.

Probation

A period during which students must maintain a specified academic standing. Failure to do so can result in their having to discontinue studies.

Program

A prescribed syllabus of study leading to a degree, certificate, or academic credential.

Registration operator

Registration operators enter data from completed university forms, such as registration forms, into the University of Regina's student information system.

Scholarship

Financial aid towards academic studies, awarded on academic merit alone, or on academic merit combined with other criteria.

Semester

Either of the two main periods of instruction into which the academic year is usually divided. The fall semester begins in September and ends in December, while the winter semester begins in January and ends in April. The shorter periods of instruction between May and August are collectively called spring/summer session.

Sep

Student exchange program - a special course title used to indicate that an outbound student is paying tuition and fees at the University of Regina while enrolling in courses at another institution, and that an inbound student is attending the University of Regina as a participant in a formal exchange.

Supplemental examination

Repeating a course by rewriting the final examination only. The remainder of the grade is based on the course work completed in the previous attempt. Supplemental examinations may be written only in the Faculty of Engineering, and only in very specific circumstances.

Suspension

Dismissal for a fixed period. Students may apply for readmission for the first semester after expiration of the penalty; no petition is required.

Transcript

An official copy of a student's academic record produced by the office of the registrar.

Transfer (between faculties/colleges)

A formal process involving an application to move from one faculty and/or federated college to another.

Transfer (between universities)

To withdraw from one educational institution and enrol at another.

Transfer credit

Credit given by the University of Regina for academic work done at other institutions.

University transfer courses

Courses offered by Canadian colleges as part of a formal university transfer program.

Variable credit

There is a range of credit values for which these courses may be granted credit.

Waitlist

A sequential computerised list of students wishing to register in a course that is filled.

Withdrawal

Formal notification by a student to his or her faculty or college of voluntary discontinuance from a course or academic program.

Year of study

Degrees, diplomas, and certificates are defined academically in terms of credit hours, not years of study. For administrative purposes, the university defines year of study for undergraduate students as follows:

Year 1: 0-23 credit hours successfully completed

Year 2: 24-53 credit hours successfully completed

Year 3: 54-83 credit hours successfully completed

Year 4: 84 or more credit hours successfully completed

When certification is required, the university certifies total credit hours successfully completed, including credit hours that may be extra to the current program.