

THE OAAS COLLEGE GLOSSARY

n. 1. A list of terms used at DePaul University and in higher education that are important to know.

Aa

Academic advisor. A designated staff or faculty member who supports students in a variety of ways throughout their time at DePaul. Every student is assigned an academic advisor, and some students may have multiple. The advisor helps students maintain progress toward graduation, make academic decisions, set goals, navigate the university, and reflect on their experiences. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisor regularly.

Academic Catalog. A resource that includes the official curriculum for all academic programs as well as university policies, resources, and student handbooks.

Academic integrity. See [DePaul's Academic Integrity](#) policy which establishes standards for academic honesty.

Academic year. In contrast to a January to December calendar year, the academic year at DePaul begins in September and concludes in August.

Accredited. Describes a university or program that meets certain standards for educational quality as determined by an outside agency.

Add. To officially enroll in a class. The deadline to add a class is typically at the end of week 1 in Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters. Check the Academic Calendar for official deadlines to add.

Adjunct faculty. A faculty member who teaches on a limited-term contract and is ineligible for tenure.

Assistant professor. A faculty member on a contract that leads to a type of permanent employment status known as 'tenure.' Assistant Professors are working to establish a body of work in the areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and service that will support their application for tenure.

Associate professor. A faculty member who has met certain criteria in the areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and service and earned the permanent employment status known as 'tenure.'

Associate's degree. The type of degree typically awarded by a two-year college. DePaul does not award Associate's degrees, but many transfer students will have completed one before they are admitted to DePaul.

Audit. To take a course while not earning credit or a grade, but still paying tuition. Students must receive approval in order to audit a course.

Bb

Bachelor's degree. The type of undergraduate degree awarded by a four-year institution. This may include Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts, or Bachelor of Science in Business. The kind of degree indicates how a majority of the degree was completed. A DePaul student needs a minimum number of 192 credits to earn a Bachelor's degree.

Cc

Campus Connect. DePaul's online student information system for academics, finances, and other administrative tasks. In Campus Connect, students can register for classes, view grades, pay tuition bills, schedule advising appointments, request transcripts, and review their Degree Progress Reports.

Career community. A Career Center resource for students that offers information, support, and opportunities surrounding career exploration and development. There are multiple career communities that focus on broad career categories such as Media, Communication, Arts & Entertainment or Health Care & Science.

Chicago Quarter (Discover Chicago and Explore Chicago). An introductory course for first year students focused on a specific academic topic related to Chicago. Students investigate the topic while exploring and navigating the city, developing key success skills, learning DePaul resources, and building community.

College/school. An academic division within the university containing related academic departments. DePaul's colleges and schools are: College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS), College of Science and Health (CSH), Jarvis College of Computing and Digital Media (CDM), Driehaus College of Business (BUS), College of Communication (CMN), College of Education (COE), The Theatre School (TTS), School of Music (SOM), and School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS).

Combined program. An academic degree program that allows students to complete both an undergraduate and graduate degree in as few as five years.

Commencement. The ceremony held to celebrate graduation (which is the completion of a degree).

Concentration. A specialization within a major around a specific sub-topic. Not all majors have concentrations.

Convocation. A gathering of members of the college or university. At DePaul, convocation marks the start of the academic year. At convocation, DePaul also recognizes members of the DePaul community for their accomplishments.

Corequisite. A course that must be taken in the same quarter as another course.

Course cart. A tool in Campus Connect that students can use to help prepare for registration. Classes can be added to the course cart in Week 4 of an academic quarter by using either the Class Search or Planner in Campus Connect. Adding classes to the course cart does not guarantee a spot in the class.

Credential. A document that shows a qualification or competence in a specific area or skill.

Credits/credit hours. The unit used to measure courses. Most classes at DePaul are 4 credits, though there are exceptions. The number of credits for a class determines the weight of the grade in that class in a GPA. Tuition is based on the number of credits a student enrolls in each quarter.

Cross-listed. A single course that is offered collaboratively through two or more departments or programs.

Curriculum. A set of requirements for a degree, program, or class aimed at achieving specific learning outcomes.

Dd

D2L. Desire to Learn (D2L) is DePaul's online learning management system. Many faculty use it to share grades, post readings, facilitate discussion, collect assignments, and post class updates.

Dean. The head of a college or school.

Dean of Students Office. The office that helps students navigate the university, particularly during personal, medical, mental health, and/or family crises. The Dean of Students Office is also responsible for overseeing the Code of Student Responsibility and managing the Student Conduct Process.

Dean's List. An honor for students who earn a 3.5 GPA or higher in a given quarter. Not awarded for cumulative GPA.

December Session. An optional one to three week class session that takes place between the end of Autumn Quarter and the start of Winter Quarter. Classes offered in December session count toward the Winter Quarter course load.

Declared. To have officially selected a major in Campus Connect. A declared student may still consider alternate or additional majors and minors to pursue.

Degree Progress Report (DPR). An online tool that is used to visualize and track a student's completion of requirements for their declared degree program. Students who see anything incorrect on their DPR should talk to their advisor. Students can also use the "what-if" feature of the DPR to visualize the impact of changing/adding majors and minors.

Department. A division within a college that is home to a specific academic field, like Finance or Sociology. The faculty member in charge of a department is called the chair.

DePaul Central. The office for assistance with tuition, financial aid, and academic records.

Discontinued. A status assigned to students who are no longer able to enroll at the university due to three consecutive quarters of unenrollment or failure to enroll in their term of admission.

Discussion. A class format focused on discussing and reviewing course content.

Dismissal. When a student becomes ineligible to attend DePaul due to poor academic performance or disciplinary actions.

Double major. An optional second major that a student chooses to add to their degree plan. Students must complete the major requirements, liberal studies and electives of their first major as well as the major requirements of their second major. Unlike primary majors, a double major can fulfill liberal studies requirements and open electives.

Drop. To unenroll from a class before 20% of the class has been held. The class is removed from the transcript, and in some cases students is eligible for a tuition refund. Check the Academic Calendar for specific deadlines each quarter.

Dual degree. An optional second degree that a student chooses to add to their degree plan which results in the student graduating with two bachelor's degrees. Students must complete the major requirements and liberal studies for both degrees and earn a minimum of 252 credits.

Ee

Enrollment appointment. The time and date a student is allowed to start registering for classes for the next quarter. DePaul will send an email in the 4th week of the quarter alerting students that their enrollment appointment has been posted in Campus Connect. Registration is determined by credit hours earned so that seniors register before freshmen. The enrollment appointment is not an actual advising meeting; students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor in advance of the enrollment appointment.

Experiential learning. A liberal studies requirement for all DePaul students that involves specified course activities outside the classroom and reflecting on them inside the classroom. Options for completing the requirement include internships, service-based learning, study abroad, and research. Some majors may have specific options for fulfilling this requirement.

Exploratory. To be exploring majors and minors. This can include students who are undeclared (and haven't chosen a major yet) as well as students who are declared but are considering other majors and minors.

Extracurricular. Activities happening outside of coursework that contribute to students' overall college experience.

Ff

Faculty. The professors, adjunct professors, instructors, and teaching assistants who are qualified to teach credit-bearing classes.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). A federal law protecting student privacy that allows students to decide if and when they share academic information with anyone outside of DePaul.

Finals. An evaluation that occurs at the end of the quarter to assess student learning and may include tests, quizzes, essays, or projects. A separate week for finals follows the 10 weeks of class that make up a quarter.

First-generation student. The federal definition used to determine eligibility for Pell Grants states that first-generation students come from families in which their parents did not complete a four-year college degree.

Full-time. Enrollment in 12-18 credits.

Gg

Grade Point Average (GPA). The average of all grades. Cumulative GPA is the average of the grades of all classes taken at DePaul. Term GPA is the average of the grades of all classes taken in a quarter. The GPA at DePaul will not take into account grades from coursework completed elsewhere. The formula for a GPA is the sum of grades multiplied by the number of credits for each class divided by the total number of credits.

Graduate and professional school. Academic degree programs requiring a Bachelor's degree for admission. Typically more specialized than undergraduate degrees, graduate programs are intended

for students with specific and defined academic interests and professional goals. Some graduate programs also require specialized exams for admission. Can include Master's programs (i.e. MA, MBA, MFA), doctoral programs (i.e. PhD, EdD), law school, and medical school.

Graduating with honors. Awarded to students with certain cumulative GPAs. A cumulative DePaul GPA of at least 3.850 will be graduated *summa cum laude*; of at least 3.700 but no higher than 3.849 will be graduated *magna cum laude*; of at least 3.500 grade but no higher than 3.699 will be graduated *cum laude*.

Ii

Independent study. A course taken with faculty approval and supervision for specialized learning beyond courses offered at DePaul.

Inter-college transfer (ICT). To transfer from one college to another within the university. Students can complete an ICT form in Campus Connect once they have earned 12 credits at DePaul and have a 2.0 cumulative GPA (2.5 to ICT to College of Education).

Internship. A student-level position within an organization focused on gaining work experience, often done over a limited period of time. To earn DePaul credit for internships, students are required to be enrolled in an approved internship course.

Ll

Lab. A class format focused on hands-on learning often with smaller class sizes and specialized equipment.

Learning domain. A category of requirements in the liberal studies program, including Arts and Literature, Philosophical Inquiry, Religious Dimensions, Historical Inquiry, Scientific Inquiry, Social/Cultural/Behavioral Inquiry, and Math and Computing.

Leave of absence. A temporary time away from DePaul with the intention to re-enroll at DePaul.

Lecture. The most common class format at DePaul that includes presentations from faculty and class discussion.

Letter of recommendation. A letter of reference that vouches for a person's characteristics and qualifications. These may be required for grad school applications, internships, scholarships, study abroad, and more.

Liberal studies. DePaul's general education program that all students take regardless of major. While the specific combinations of liberal studies classes vary by major, the goals are the same: to ensure that students experience a variety of areas and types of learning, to develop students' writing abilities, computational and technological proficiencies, and critical and creative thinking skills. University Honors students complete an alternative liberal studies program.

Mm

Major. The primary field of study within a degree. All students must declare a major in order to graduate. Students may have more than one major, though that can add time to a standard four-year plan.

Master's degree. See "graduate and professional school."

Matriculate. To officially enroll in a university.

Midterms. An evaluation that occurs around week 5 of the quarter to assess student learning and may include tests, quizzes, essays, or projects. Not all classes will have midterms.

Minor. An optional secondary field of study within a degree. Most minors are 5-7 classes and can sometimes fulfill liberal studies or open elective requirements. Minors are not required.

Mission. The common goals and ideals of an institution. DePaul's mission statement can be found [here](#).

Modern Language Requirement. A requirement for some majors, typically those earning Bachelor of Arts degrees, to achieve a certain level of proficiency in a language other than English. The requirement may be satisfied through high school coursework, taking college classes, or through an exam. Check with an academic advisor for more information.

Oo

Office for Academic Advising Support (OAAS). The advising office for any student who is exploring academic options, including undeclared students, students thinking about changing their major, students thinking about adding a major, and students looking at minors outside their college.

Office hours. A scheduled time each week that an instructor has set aside to be available to talk with students. This is an opportunity for students to discuss any questions around coursework or seek out academic or professional advice.

OneDePaul. The online system used to support student success. Students can use One DePaul to schedule appointments with their advisor, access other campus resources, search knowledge articles for frequently asked questions, and submit support requests

Open electives. A varying number of classes within a degree that students can choose for themselves. Most degree plans require open electives in order to graduate. Open Electives can be fulfilled in a variety of ways, including through classes that are needed for second majors, minors, language requirements or through any classes that a student wants to take.

Pp

Part-time. Enrollment in fewer than 12 credits.

Pass/fail. The option to take a course without earning a specific letter grade. Credit is only awarded if a student earns a D or higher in the course. There are limited opportunities to take a course pass/fail, so check with an academic advisor or the Student Handbook for more information.

Pathways Honors Program. A selective program in the College of Science and Health for undergraduate students who are interested in graduate health professions programs (medical school, dental school, etc.) Eligible incoming freshman are invited to the program at the time of acceptance to DePaul. Students may have the opportunity to apply midway through their first year.

Placement exam. An exam to assess knowledge of a topic such as math, language, writing, or science in order to place the student into a class that matches a student's academic readiness.

Plagiarism. DePaul's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as occurring “when one uses words, ideas, or work products attributed to an identifiable source, without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained, in a situation where there is a legitimate expectation of original authorship in order to obtain benefit, credit, or gain.”

Prerequisite. A requirement that must be completed before taking a specific course. Not all courses have prerequisites. Prerequisites cannot be taken at the same time as the course.

Probation. A student's academic status when their cumulative GPA drops below 2.0. Probation is a warning that academic progress isn't being maintained. If a student is on probation for three consecutive quarters, they may be dismissed from the university.

Professor Emeritus. A retired professor who was given the title as an honor upon retirement.

Qq

Quarter. The academic term that makes up the academic year. Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters are 10 weeks long plus a week of finals. These three quarters constitute the standard academic year. Summer quarter is optional and requires additional tuition. Classes during Summer are 5 weeks or 10 weeks.

Rr

Readmitted. A designation for students who left DePaul but have reapplied and been accepted again.

Research. Can refer to work done in individual coursework in order to gather information for essays, projects, and homework. It can also mean participation in a study as a volunteer or for work.

Residency requirement. The requirement that students complete their final 60 credits at DePaul. Any request to transfer in credit once students have started their final 60 credits must be approved by a student's home college.

Resident Assistant (RA). Returning students who live in a residence hall with fellow students who are trained to help and support students within the residence hall.

Residential Director (RD). A full-time staff member who lives on campus. They supervise the student RA staff, manage the residence hall, and oversee the hall's community.

Ss

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). A set of guidelines from the US government that requires students to meet limits for credits, GPA, and course completion in order to remain eligible for financial aid.

Seminar. A style of class typically involving class discussion on course material and readings. Seminars may also include lectures and group work, but class discussion will be the primary format.

Service learning. A way of teaching and a type of educational experience within a course that involves academic and civic learning, service in the community, and reflection on that experience.

Staff. Employees who support various divisions of the university including, but not limited to, advisors, administrators, librarians, custodians, etc.

STARS. A peer-to-peer mentoring programming for first-time DePaul students. Peer mentors connect students to the campus community and assist them with finding the opportunities that best fit their interests and needs.

STEM. Stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and typically refers to majors/minors/topics in those areas.

Studio. A class format focused on hands-on learning in the arts and design.

Study abroad. Educational programs that take place outside the US. Term-long study abroad programs involve a student enrolling at a DePaul partner university in a different country for one, two, or three full quarters. Short-term study abroad programs involve traveling with a faculty member and classmates from a DePaul on-campus class for one to three weeks during December, Spring Break, or Summer.

Supplemental instruction (SI). A DePaul study resource that offers support for select classes, including study sessions outside of class led by upperclass students who have previously taken the course.

Swap. A feature in Campus Connect that allows a student to simultaneously drop one class and add another.

Syllabus. A document instructors give students that typically provides an overview of course procedures and policies, the content that will be covered in the course, a schedule of the quarter, information about how grades will be determined, and contact information for the instructor.

Tt

Teaching assistant (TA). A secondary instructor for a class whose purpose is to provide additional support. They may be in charge of grading, tutoring, or other class needs.

Technology Support Center (TSC)/ “Help Desk”. DePaul's technical assistance office. They offer immediate help via Web, phone, or email to current students, faculty and staff. Online tickets may be filed through Campus Connect, by calling (312)362-8765 or by emailing helpdesk@depaul.edu.

Tenured professor. A faculty member who has a permanent teaching position at their university and who cannot be fired without cause.

Textbooks. Required books for class which may be purchased or rented. Check the Campus Bookstore for information on required materials.

The DePaulia. DePaul's student-run newspaper.

Transcript. The record of all classes a student has attempted and completed. A transcript displays all credit earned (from DePaul, from other schools, and through test credit), all grades earned, type of

degree, and majors and minors. Students can access unofficial and official transcripts at any time in Campus Connect.

Tutoring. A form of academic support for students outside the classroom. Some departments offer tutoring for select classes. Tutoring availability and schedules differ by department - check with your instructor.

Uu

Undeclared. An official designation for students who have not formally chosen a major. Students can be undeclared in most colleges.

Undergraduate. Refers to students and courses at the Bachelor's degree level.

University Honors Program. A selective cohort of high-achieving students with a specialized liberal studies curriculum. The University Honors Program is different from graduating with honors, and is also different from honors programs within different majors; students apply to University Honors before they begin at DePaul.

U-Pass. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)-issued card that allows unlimited access to CTA trains and buses during the academic year. Students must be full-time during the regular academic year or part-time in the summer in order for the U-Pass to be active.

Vv

Vincentian. At DePaul, this term refers to a set of values that focus on a belief in the dignity of all people, inclusivity, personalism, and professionalism. These Vincentian beliefs shape DePaul's mission and curriculum. Broadly, can also refer to a member of the Congregation of the Mission, founded by St. Vincent de Paul.

Ww

Waitlist. A numbered list of students waiting to join a class that is full. Campus Connect keeps track of the order students signed up and automatically enrolls the first eligible student if a seat becomes available before the Add deadline. For the student to be added, they must not have any time conflicts, cannot be registered for another section of the same course, and must meet all prerequisites.

Withdraw. To unenroll from a class after the drop deadline but before 70% of the class has been held. The course remains on transcripts and is assigned a grade of W, which does not affect GPA. A student is financially responsible for classes from which they withdraw. Check the Academic Calendar for specific deadlines each quarter.