

College Terminology 101

APPLICATION: The first step to enroll is to complete and submit the College's application form.

BRIGHTSPACE: Old Westbury's online learning management system.

BURSAR: The office that coordinates the billing process, handles student accounts, and processes financial aid and other financial functions.

CATALOG: The catalog provides information you need know about enrolling, college policies, curriculum, and courses

CREDIT HOUR: College classes are measured by credit hours. One credit hour equates to one classroom hour per week. Most classes are worth three to four credit hours.

COURSE MODALITIES: There are 4 common types of course delivery:

On-Campus- A face-to-face course that meets on campus as scheduled.

Hybrid- A distance course that meets half the time in an assigned classroom as scheduled and has asynchronous online work.

Remote - A distance course with all instruction conducted during scheduled class times via an online conferencing platform.

Online - A distance course with online asynchronous instruction via an online conferencing platform with no scheduled meeting times.

CURRICULUM: A curriculum is the set of courses required to complete a program.

ELECTIVE: A class of your choosing taken to meet the credit-hour graduation requirement.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid- at fafsa.ed.gov - is the first step to receiving federal aid or consideration for scholarships or state aid.

FINANCIAL AID: The office that assists with services and resources available to help applicants with the financial aid process.

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME: A full-time student is enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a semester, about four to five classes. A part-time student is enrolled in less than 12 credit hours in a semester, or generally one to three classes.

GPA: The Grade Point Average is an average of a student's grades based on a 4-point scale. An A is a 4.0, B is a 3.0, C is a 2.0 and D is 1.0.

HUMANITIES: Humanities courses include literature, philosophy, fine arts, foreign language, and other related areas.

LIBERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM: A core curriculum that provides students with a broad multidisciplinary liberal arts education.

MAJOR/MINOR: A major is a student's chosen field of study for a degree. A minor in a secondary field requires fewer credit hours.

PREREQUISITE: A course required before taking another course.

REGISTRAR: The office is responsible for registration records, transcripts requests, transfer credit evaluation, declaration of majors, processing of grades and other related functions.

SOCIAL SCIENCES: Social science courses include history, psychology, sociology, criminology, and geography.

SYLLABUS: The instructor's outline of important information about the expectations of a course, including exams, readings, and the professor's contact information.

TRANSCRIPT: The permanent academic record of courses taken, and grades received at a college.

TRANSFER: If a student moves, or transfers, from one college to another, accumulated credit hours can also be transferred. The new institution decides which credits apply toward a degree. Generally, a grade of D or lower does not transfer.

TUITION: The cost of each credit hour. Tuition varies based on residency in a state, and does not include the cost of books, fees, or room and board.