

Academic Terms

ACCUPLACER

Accuplacer is a computerized assessment that assesses sentence skills, reading comprehension, and mathematics skills.

ACCREDITATION

The process whereby a recognized agency or organization grants public recognition (such as a school, institute, college, university, or specialized program of study) indicating that it meets established standards of quality, as determined through initial and periodic self study and evaluation by peers. The essential purpose of the accreditation process is to provide a professional judgment to quality of the educational institution or programs offered.

ADD/DROP COURSE

Upon completion of the registration process, a student may wish to add or drop a course to or from their schedule.

ADVISOR

A staff member who, along with teaching or other duties, assists students with registration, course selection and educational planning.

ARLO

An abbreviation for Automatic Registration Linkage Option for those courses that require (and are linked at registration) both a lecture and a lab.

AUDIT

Registration for informational instruction only. Regular attendance in a course or courses is customary without other participation and without credit.

CATALOG

The publication, issued annually or biennially, that presents information about the institution. The catalog may be published as one publication (as at OC) or as separate bulletins of information. It is considered the basic publication, the official reference for college policies, degree requirements, course descriptions, and other services.

CERTIFICATION

The authorization given by a professional or governmental agency or both to practice a particular vocation after completion of required training, and/or testing.

CLASS SCHEDULE

A publication containing information on the courses and sections offered for a given term. At OC, the printed quarterly schedule of courses is *The View*. Courses are also available online at www.olympic.edu/ClassSchedule.

COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP)

A nationwide program of examinations designed to measure college-level educational achievement gained through "life experience" (e.g. military, employment, or private study). Up to two years of college credit may be granted on the basis of CLEP examinations, depending on the institution.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A two-year institution of higher education, generally public, offering instruction for the community in which it is located. Offerings usually include a transfer curricula (credits transferable toward a bachelor's degree), professional/technical programs, general education courses, community service, and adult education.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Opportunities for extending education beyond high school to young persons and adults following completion or withdrawal from full-time school or college programs. The service is usually provided by special schools, centers, colleges, and institutions, or by separate administrative divisions such as university extensions.

CONTINUING STUDENT

Registered/attended any OC course the previous quarter.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Courses that a student may enter beyond the fifth day of the quarter (at OC). The dates vary. Courses are available online at www.olympic.edu/ClassSchedule.

COURSE

A single subject of study taken for one term, quarter, or semester.

COUNSELOR

A full-time, professionally trained faculty member who works with students which need assistance with career decision-making as well as personal issues.

CREDIT(S)

The unit by which an institution may measure course work.

CURRICULA

A set of courses organized to achieve a specific educational objective.

DEGREES

Associate Degree: The designation granted upon completion of an educational program of generally two but less than four years of college work.

OC offers the Associate in Arts, Associate of Science, Associate in Applied Science—Transfer, Associate in Technical Arts, and Associate of General Studies.

Bachelor Degree: The degree customarily granted upon completion of a course of study normally requiring four academic years of college work.

Master's Degree: An academic degree, earned or honorary, carrying the title of "Master." Higher than a bachelor's degree, the earned Master's degree requires extended course work and research.

Doctorate Degree: An academic degree, earned or honorary, carrying the title of "Doctor." Higher than a Master's degree, the earned Doctor degree requires extended course work and research.

Professional Degree: The degree signifying completion of the minimum academic requirements for practice of a profession. The specific programs included in this category are: dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.); law, general (L.L.B. or J.D.); medicine (M.D.); optometry (O.D.); osteopathic medicine (D.O.); podiatry (Pod D., D.P., or P.M.); theological professionals, generally (B.D., M.Div., Rabbi); and veterinary medicine (D.V.M.).

Direct Transfer (DTA): The associate degree that a two-year college has created to meet the 1996 Washington Intercollegiate Relations Commission Guidelines, which enables a student to transfer to a college or a university with all or most of the basic requirements (general education or "core" courses) completed.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Any of a number of alternative courses to typical classroom instruction that use communication technology exclusively, or in part, to provide course information, research, and other resources.

DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

Courses numbered 100 or above that meet specific requirements for associate degrees, and may be transferred and applied to programs that culminate in a Bachelor Degree.

ELECTIVE COURSE

A subject or course which is not required for a major or general requirement.

E.S.O.L.

English for Speakers of other Languages - Courses offered for students who do not speak English or who do not use English as their native language.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Federal laws designed to protect the privacy of educational records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings (also known as The Buckley Amendment).

FEES

The designation usually given by an institution to the educational services fee assessed each time students register, or (at other institutions) the charge assessed all students for the specific function of registration. Money may be charged at registration to cover incidental materials in a course or allow access to services on campus (e.g. computer, parking).

FEES, RESIDENT

One year of residency in Washington State is the basic minimum requirement. Active duty military personnel, their spouses, and dependents are eligible to have non-resident fees waived.

FEES, NON-RESIDENT

The tuition that a tax-supported institution assesses students whose domicile is outside the state from which it draws tax support.

FINANCIAL AID

Sometimes called Student Aid. Money made available to a student who can demonstrate financial need. The term covers grants, gifts, loans, scholarships, and jobs which are assigned to assist a student to balance his/her budget. Amounts and types of aid vary and are dependent upon the amount of funds available for distribution.

FORMER STUDENT

Did not register/attend any OC course the previous quarter/session.

FULL TIME

Students who enroll in 12 or more credits in one quarter are considered to be full time students.

GED

General Education Development - A test for students 19 and older who have not completed high school to demonstrate learning equivalent to a high school diploma.

G.E.R.

General Education Requirement(s) - Generally, 50 credits of 100-level courses or above that require the student to take courses in a variety of disciplines or subjects which apply to programs that culminate in an Associate or Bachelor degree. At OC, G.E.R.'s are termed "Distribution Areas."

GPA

Grade Point Average - A numerical measure of scholastic performance over a set of courses obtained by dividing the sum of the grade points earned by the total number of hours of course work (credits) attempted.

HUMANITIES

An area of academic study that examines and celebrates the human experience. Courses in the humanities include language, literature, art, music, and philosophy.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

A course of study with topics or problems chosen by the student with the approval of the college and the supervision of an instructor.

LABORATORY COURSE

A course which provides a student an opportunity to perform experiments and determine results. Typically, laboratory courses are used for exposure to materials that illustrate principles taught in a lecture course.

LECTURE COURSE

A course which familiarizes a student with the principles of a subject area. Lecture courses typically involve note-taking by the student and allow for limited discussion.

LIBERAL ARTS

A course of study intended to expose a student to a broad sampling of academic studies. Liberal arts courses stress the development of reasoning, writing, and speaking skills.

LOWER DIVISION

Generally freshman and sophomore courses (100-200 level), as distinct from upper division (300-400 level).

MAJOR

A subject area in which a student chooses to specialize. Typically a major comprises one-third to one-half of a student's four years of course work for a bachelor degree. No major is required for an associate degree.

MATRICULATED

The term applies to a student who has successfully applied for and registered at a college or university.

MINOR

A secondary area of specialization.

NEW STUDENT

First time to register/attend OC.

OASIS

An online service that allows students to access their educational records (unofficial), find their student ID or time to register, plan their schedule, register online, pay tuition and fees, look up grades, print an unofficial transcript, or update their address.

ORIENTATION

A program through which entering students have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the college or university, its programs and policies.

PART TIME

Students who enroll in 11 or fewer credits in one quarter are considered to be part time students.

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

(PSAT/NMSQT) - A version of the Scholastic Aptitude Test generally taken in the junior year of high school. It is designed for counselors and college admissions officers as an early measure of scholastic aptitude. It is also a basic screening test for students who wish to compete for scholarships offered through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

PREREGISTRATION

The plan by which students select courses for the succeeding term well in advance of the official opening date of the term.

PREREQUISITE

A requirement or necessary condition for enrollment in a course, including previous successful completion of another course or courses, assessment score or course grade, audition, admission status, concurrent enrollment or co-enrollment in a course or courses, or permission of the instructor.

QUARTER

A time period of 10 or 11 weeks constitutes a complete academic term under the quarter calendar (see semester). OC offers three quarters per year plus an eight-week summer session. A school year may consist of four quarters at some colleges or universities.

RECOMMENDED COURSE

A course that is not required but strongly advised to better prepare a student for a particular program.

REQUIRED COURSE

A course that is needed to fulfill a college major, degree requirement, or certification.

REGISTRATION

The procedure by which students are enrolled in courses.

RESIDENCY STATUS

In public institutions, the classification by the institution of a student as a resident or nonresident of the state in which the institution is located in order to determine how much tuition the student will be charged. Currently, one year residency is the basic requirement for Washington State resident tuition status.

S.A.T.

Scholastic Aptitude Test, a widely used test colleges use to determine a student's ability to succeed in college-level courses. The Scholastic Aptitude Test of The College Board may be required for students entering some four-year schools.

SEMESTER

A time period of 14 to 16 weeks for each semester which constitute a complete academic term under the semester calendar (see quarter).

TRANSCRIPT

A copy of the permanent course record at an institution of higher education. The document becomes an official transcript when the seal of the institution is affixed (and unbroken) and the signature of the registrar is appended.

TRANSFER STUDENT

A student who transfers credits earned at one college or university to another college or university.

TUITION

The amount of money charged by an institution of higher education for its instructional services.

PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

At OC, programs designed to provide entry into technical or semi-professional occupations, or provide additional training for those already working in a field who seek advancement.

UNIVERSITY

An institution of higher education with graduate and professional schools as well as undergraduate (bachelor's level) schools or colleges.

Academic Terms

UPPER DIVISION

Generally, junior and senior courses (300-400 level).

UPSIDE-DOWN DEGREE

When specific courses designed to complete a major are taken before (or concurrently with) lower division courses.

WITHDRAWAL

The dropping of a course from the student's registration, either voluntary or required, which may be initiated by a student or by a faculty member for class absences or lack of a prerequisite course.