
GLOSSARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Academic year | The period of formal academic instruction, usually extending from September to June. Depending on the institution, it may be divided into terms of varying lengths—semesters, trimesters or quarters. |
| Accreditation | Approval of colleges, universities and secondary schools by nationally recognized professional associations. Institutional accreditation affects the transferability of credits from one institution to another before a degree program is completed. |
| Admission | Permission by an educational institution to enroll as a student. |
| AFDC | Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a federal program designed to support single-parent families with under-age children |
| Afro | Bushy (Afro-American) hairstyle |
| Aleut | A native of the Aleutian Island (a part of Alaska) |
| Alien | Person living in one country but remaining a citizen of another |
| Amendment | Addition, esp. to the constitution |
| American Revolution | War between Great Britain and her American colonies (1776-1783) in which the colonies gained their independence |
| Americana | Things relating to American history, folklore, etc. |
| Appalachia | Mountain region in the Eastern U.S. |
| Assistantship | A study grant of financial aid to a graduate student that is offered in return for certain services in teaching or laboratory supervision, as a teaching assistant, or services in research, as a research assistant. |
| Associate degree | A degree awarded upon completion of a two-year academic program. This degree is comparable to the first two years of college work and often may be applied toward future study at a four-year institution. |
| Baby boom | Period between 1946 and 1964 when many babies were born |
| Baccalaureate degree | The degree of "bachelor" conferred upon graduates of most U.S. colleges and universities. |
| Ballot | Ticket used in secret voting; list of candidates running for office |
| Big Apple | Nickname of New York City |
| Bill | An initial form of a proposal presented for approval to legislative body |

| | |
|--|--|
| Bill of Rights | Statement of the rights of individuals; the first ten Amendments to the Constitution of the U.S. |
| Blue-collar | Relating to wage earners who do manual work |
| Board of Regents | (Also called Board of Trusts or Board of Records.)The governing body of a university. |
| Broadway | Street in New York City famous for its stores and theaters; professional theater in NYC |
| Cafeteria | The building or buildings on campus at which meals are served for students and faculty. |
| Campus | The land on which the buildings of a college or university are located. |
| Channel 13 | Television channel for non-commercial programs provided by the Public Broadcasting Service |
| Checks and balances | System of limiting the power of the three branches of government by having each branch control and balance the powers of the other two |
| Chicano | Mexican-American; person of Mexican birth or descent living in the U.S. |
| CIA | Central Intelligent Agency, U.S. agency responsible for coordinating government intelligence activities |
| Civil Rights movement | Organized movement to secure civil rights for the Blacks and other minorities in the U.S. in the 1960s |
| Civil War | War in the U.S. between the northern and southern states (1861-1965) |
| College | An institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate programs, usually of a four-year duration, which lead to the bachelor's degree in the arts or sciences (B.A. or B.S.). The term "college" is also used in a general sense to refer to a postsecondary institution. |
| Colonial times | The period when the North American colonies were still under British rule, i.e. the time before 1776 |
| Community, technical or junior college | An institution of higher learning that offers programs of up to two years' duration leading to an associate degree in the arts or sciences (A.A. or A.S.) or to a technical degree. |
| Comprehensive | (In education) including all students of an age group |
| Comprehensive colleges and universities | Institutions that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors and specializations. They can also include master's programs, professional schools, and doctoral programs. |
| Constituency | Body of voters who elect one or a number of people to represent them |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| | in a parliament |
| Constitution | A written plan of government |
| Credits | Units that institutions use to record the completion of courses of instruction (with passing or higher grades) that are required for an academic degree. The catalog of a college or university defines the amounts and kinds of credits that are required for its degrees and states the value in terms of degree credit—or "credit hours" or "credit points"—of each course offered. |
| Degree | Diploma or title conferred by a college, university or professional school upon completion of a prescribed program of studies. |
| Denomination | A religious organization or group, usually including a number of local churches |
| Department | Administrative division (of a government) |
| Doctorate (Ph.D.) | The highest academic degree conferred by a university on students who have completed at least three years of graduate study beyond the bachelor's and/ or master's degree and who have demonstrated their academic ability in oral and written examinations and through original research presented in the form of a dissertation. |
| Electives | Courses that students may "elect" (choose freely) to take for credit toward their intended degree as distinguished from courses that they are required to take. |
| Elector | Person who elects; member of the Electoral College in the U.S. |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency started in 1970 |
| Equal employment | (Laws requiring) employment without discrimination against a person because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin |
| ERA | Equal Rights Amendment; proposed constitutional amendment intended to secure equal rights for women in the U.S. |
| Executive branch | Branch of government (headed by the President) that enforces laws and sets policy |
| FBI | Federal Bureau of Investigation, a U.S. government agency which investigates crimes falling under federal jurisdiction |
| Federalism | Form of government based on a constitution in which power is divided between a central authority and a number of regional political units |
| Fees | An amount charged by schools, in addition to tuition, to cover costs of institutional services. |
| Financial aid | A general term that includes all types of money, loans and part-time jobs offered to a student. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Fraternity | A social organization of men. (A similar organization for women is called a "sorority.") Membership is by invitation and is usually limited to undergraduates. Members may live together in a large house, called a fraternity (or "frat") house. |
| Fundamentalist | Relating to a Protestant movement which strictly follows orthodox beliefs, such as the literal truth of the Bible |
| Grade point average | A system of recording academic achievement based on an average calculated by multiplying the numerical grade received in each course by the number of credit hours studied. |
| Grading system or scale | Schools, colleges and universities in the United States commonly use letter grades to indicate the quality of a student's academic performance A (excellent), B (good), C (average), D (below average), and E or F (failing). Work rated C or above is usually required of an undergraduate student to continue his or her studies. Grades of P (pass), S (satisfactory), and N (no credit) are also used. In percentage scales, 100 percent is the highest mark, and 65-70 percent is usually the lowest passing mark. |
| Graduate | A student who has completed a course of study, either at the high school or college level. A graduate program at a university is a study course for students who hold a bachelor's degree. |
| Great Depression | Period in the U.S. during which there was a decline in business and trade, with widespread unemployment (1930s-early1940s) |
| Higher education | Postsecondary education at colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, professional schools, technical institutes and teacher-training schools. |
| Hispanics | Spanish-speaking Americans |
| Illegitimate | Born of parents not married to each other |
| Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) | U.S. government agency which administers immigration matters and enforces immigration laws. |
| Independent study | A method of receiving credit for study or research independent of the assignments of any specific course. |
| Institute of technology | An institution of higher education which specializes in the sciences and technology, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). |
| International student advisers | University or college employees who handle concerns of the international student, such as visa issues, housing, and adjustment to campus life. |
| Judicial branch | Branch of government that makes decisions in legal cases and on the constitutionality of laws |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Laboratory courses | Individual, practical course work to supplement classroom lectures and readings. Languages and the sciences are two common subjects which require laboratory work. |
| Legislative branch | Branch of the government that makes laws |
| Liberal arts | A term referring to academic studies of subjects in the humanities (language, literature, philosophy, the arts), the social sciences (economics, sociology, anthropology, history, political science) and the sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry). Also called "liberal arts and sciences," or "arts and sciences." |
| Liberal arts college | College or university that offers students in academic disciplines such as languages, history, philosophy, and natural sciences as distinguished from professional or technical subjects |
| Lobbyist | Person whose job is to influence legislators and other decision makers |
| Love Canal | Small residential community in Niagara Falls, New York, which became known nationally because major chemical contamination of the area was uncovered |
| Medicaid | Government-funded program that provides medical aid for people who fall below a certain medical income |
| Medicare | Government-funded health insurance that covers medical expenses for citizens over 65 years of age |
| Melting pot | Container in which a substance is melt or fused; a place where immigrants of different cultures or races are mixed or integrated |
| Naturalization | Becoming a citizen of another country |
| New Deal | The policies and programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to promote economic recovery and social reform in the U.S. during the 1930s |
| New World | The American continent |
| Old World | The European continent |
| Postsecondary | The educational level attained after the secondary level (usually known as "high school.") After completion of high school, students may enter a college or university or a two-year community college or technical school for other training. |
| Professional school | An institution devoted to the exclusive study of business, medicine, dentistry, law or other professional specialty. |
| Pueblo | The communal dwelling of Indian tribes in Mexico and the southwestern U.S. |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Quarter | Period of study of approximately 10 to 12 weeks' duration. |
| Quota | Maximum number or proportion of persons (e.g. immigrants) who may be admitted |
| Rags to riches | Pattern of American success stories popularized in America in the late 19 th century |
| Religiously affiliated schools | Private educational institutions which have a loose affiliation with a sponsoring church. These schools accept students of any faith, although a few actively pursue religious affiliation, with corresponding required courses or required activities. |
| Research institutions | U.S. colleges and universities, hospitals and laboratories |
| Reservations | Specific plots of land where the government forced the Indian tribes to inhabit in the 19 th century |
| Revolutionary War | The American War of Independence (1776-1783) |
| Royal Academy (of Arts) | Institution for the encouragement of painting, sculpture, and design founded by George III of England in 1768 |
| Rust Belt | Group of U.S. states in the upper Midwest (e.g. Illinois, Ohio, Indiana), home of major steel, coal and iron production, whose economies suffered when demand for these products decreased dramatically in the 1960s and '70s |
| Seminar | A form of small group instruction, combining independent research and class discussions under the guidance of a professor. Seminars are usually open to undergraduate seniors and graduate students. |
| Silver platter | (Achieving something) without having to make the least effort |
| Term of office | Period of time during which someone has a certain duty or position |
| TOEFL | The "Test of English as a Foreign Language," a standardized test often required for admission to a U.S. university or college. |
| Transcript | A certified copy of a student's educational record containing titles of courses, the number of credits and the final grades in each course. An official transcript will also state the date a degree has been conferred. |
| Transfer credit | Credits earned from postsecondary courses in the United States, or the equivalent at a non-U.S. institution which may be applied toward study at the bachelor's degree level. |
| Undergraduate studies | Two- or four-year programs in a college or university after high school graduation, leading to the associate or bachelor's degree. |
| Veto | The power to reject a bill passed by legislative body and thus prevent |

or delay its becoming a law

Vocational schools Institutions which prepare students for semiprofessional or technical employment.

Watergate Political scandal in the early 1970s revealing President Nixon's involvement in domestic espionage and obstruction of justice and leading to his resignation in 1974

White trash Negative term for poor whites as a class