

University Vocabulary

Academic Year

The Academic Year is made up of autumn and spring semesters. The autumn term courses run from September to December. The spring term courses run from January to April. Summer Studies run from May to August and may have several terms.

Admission

Before you can register for courses you must be admitted to a program. This is done through your application to the University. This process takes place before you register for courses.

Alumni

People who have graduated from an educational institution are called alumni.

Bachelor's Degree

First degree obtained at a university; for example, a Bachelors of Art (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree. In Québec, the usual length of a program, as a full-time student, is three years; however, some programs such as Engineering can be longer. A Diploma of Collegial Studies (DEC) is the basic entrance requirement for a bachelor's degree program in Quebec.

Bursary

Money awarded to a student based on financial need and reasonable academic standing.

Co-operative Education (Co-op)

Paid program-relevant work experience that alternates with academic terms.

Co-requisite

A specific course or requirement that must be taken at the same time as a prescribed course.

Discipline

A subject of study within an academic department such as, history or biochemistry.

Elective

A course that is not specific to your program but part of the degree requirement.

Exchange Program

Opportunities for students to complete some of their studies at another institution, often in another country, but still as a registered student at your home college or institution.

Faculty

A group of related departments or schools such as the Faculty of Education or the Faculty of Arts.

Faculty Advisor

Faculty advisors are often university professors who know the rules, regulations, and requirements pertaining to specific degree programs. They help students select courses and plan programs; obtain permission to take courses at other institutions; make sure graduation requirements are complete.

Full-Time Student

An undergraduate student taking 12 or more credits in a semester.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A numerical value given to letter grades used to rate academic performance.

Graduate Student

A student who has received a bachelor's degree or equivalent and who is enrolled in a program leading to a master's or doctoral degree.

Honours

A program with a high level of specialization in a discipline. Superior performance is required and students who do not maintain the required GPA are withdrawn from the Honours program.

Interdisciplinary

Combining studies and research from different subject areas or departments.

Master's Degree

The second degree obtained at a university after completion of a bachelor's degree in a particular discipline. The degree normally requires two years of full-time study and research.

Major

Your area of specialization within a degree program (ex. You may be working towards a B.Sc, degree with a major in biochemistry).

Ombudsperson

A person charged with providing an independent, impartial and confidential process through which students may seek the just, fair and equitable resolution of any University-related concern.

Plagiarism

Copying or reproducing other people's ideas or material and try to pass it off as your own as new and original work without crediting this source. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence.

Part-Time Student

An undergraduate student registered in fewer than 12 credits of study.

Doctorate (PhD)

The highest degree obtained at a university, usually requiring three to five years of original research in a specialized field of study.

Professional Programs

A specialized professional program entered after a bachelor's degree. For example, Dentistry, Engineering, Law, and Nursing are some examples of professional programs. In Quebec, students are admitted to professional programs directly from CEGEP provided they meet the admission criteria and ascertain the required R-Score. However, most students will complete an undergraduate degree before entering a professional program.

Scholarship

A student award based on academic merit or excellence.

Seminar

A small class at a university for discussion and research. Usually these courses deal with advanced topics and a student registered in an Honours Program is required to take some seminar classes.

Syllabus

At the beginning of a course the professor will give you a syllabus, or course outline, which will include information on what you will study, when assignments are due, and how grades will be assigned.

Teaching Assistant (TA)

A graduate student who assists the professor by helping in a laboratory, grading papers, leading discussion groups, tutoring or lecturing.

Undergraduate Degree

The first degree completed at university. In Quebec, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) usually takes 3 years to complete and consists of 90 credits.
