

College has a vocabulary of its own, and this list has been created to help as you begin to navigate the college experience.

## Academic Terms

**Credit Hour** – one 50-minute time block over the course of a 15-week term (most classes are 3 credit hours)

**Degree Requirements** – non-negotiable requirements a student must meet in order to earn a degree

~ *128 credit hours are required for a Creighton bachelor's degree*

**Catalog** – the university's official summary of degree requirements, programs of study, and academic policies

**Core Curriculum** – a selection of required courses that all students in a college or institution must take

**The Magis Core** – Creighton's core curriculum, focused on life's big questions and developing skills for today's careers

**Major** – a student's area of specialization, usually consisting of 34-45 credit hours in a specific subject

~ *Creighton students cannot declare majors until at least 2<sup>nd</sup> semester; most declare during sophomore year*

**Minor** – a student's secondary area of specialization; at Creighton, 18 credits of prescribed courses

**Elective** – optional courses for students; some may be part of a major, a minor, or a pre-professional track

**Prerequisites** – courses that must be completed prior to taking another course (or declaring a major)

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** – a summary of a student's academic success in numbers (A=4, B=3, etc...)

~ *"Good Standing" typically refers to students above the 2.0 GPA mark*

**Registration** – the process through which students sign up for their classes each term

**Registration PIN** – the access code a student needs to register (changes each semester and available from the advisor)

**Transient Credit** – courses students take at other universities that count toward degree requirements at Creighton

~ *After you become a student, Creighton allows 12 credit hours to be transferred in, though the courses must be approved in advance*

**Drop/Add** – the period of time at the very beginning of a semester when students can change their course schedules

~ *There is no penalty for this and these do not appear on a transcript*

**Withdrawal** – the process by which a student officially leaves a class during the term (yet after the drop/add deadline)

~ *The grade on the transcript shows a "W", and there is a deadline for students to request a "W"*

**Syllabus** – the professor's plan for the course, including course expectations, required readings and assignments

**Mid-Terms** – exams offered at the midpoint of the semester (sometime the first test in a course!)

**Finals Week** – the last week of the term, where the only scheduled classes are the actual final exams

## Miscellaneous University Terms

**College** – could refer to the entire institution, but generally refers to a specific school

~ *Creighton has three undergraduate colleges: Arts and Sciences, Nursing, and the Heider College of Business*

**FERPA (Federal Education Rights and Policy Act)** – the law governing how colleges protect and share student info

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)** – this must be completed every year to remain eligible for financial aid

**Attendance Policy** – varies by professor, and there is no University policy on excused v. unexcused absences

**Work Study** – financial aid awarded to a student in which the student received pay for hours worked (just like a job)

**Greek System** – student organizations (chapters) focused on social engagement and service to the community

~ *Fraternities and sororities are great opportunities, but require a personal and financial commitment*

**Honor Societies** – also typically use Greek letters, but membership is based on academic achievement and scholarship

**Co-Curricular** – a program or activity that may not specifically be academic, but complements a classroom experience

**Matriculation** – the act of enrolling in a college or degree program

**Dead Week** – traditionally the week before finals, where students believe (falsely) that tests and papers are not due

## Creighton Terms

**Net ID** – the ID number for any member of the Creighton community (students, staff, and faculty)

**NEST** – the portal for students to manage nearly all transactions (registration, transcripts, billing, etc...)

**Blueline** – the online system for students to access most of their courses, though utilization by professors varies

**RSP (*Ratio Studiorum Program*)** – the advising program for 1<sup>st</sup> year students; includes a 1-credit orientation class

**CRN** – Course Reference Number is a 5-digit number corresponding to a specific section of a specific course. These numbers are found next to the course title in the schedule of courses. To speed up the registration process at your assigned time, you should know the CRNs for each of the courses you wish to take.

## People

**Faculty** – the name given to the team of individuals teaching on a college campus

~ *Professor* – generally a PhD (terminal degree) who is a well-known expert in his or her field of study

~ *Instructor* – an individual hired to teach specific courses

~ *Teaching Assistant (TA)* – an upperclass or graduate student who assists the course instructor

**Dean** – the individual entirely responsible for the activities in a specific college

**Dean of Students** – the individual responsible for the actions and activities of students outside the classroom

**RSP Advisor** – a Creighton specific term that refers to a new student's academic advisor (and instructor for RSP)

**Decurion and Beadle** – students who serve as a Preceptor's teaching assistant (Decurion) and peer advisor (Beadle)

**Registrar** – the office responsible for academic records, grades, class schedules, and transcripts

**Resident Assistant (RA)** – students responsible for the actions and activities on assigned residence hall floors

**Resident Director (RD)** – trained professionals who live on campus and manage specially designated residence halls

## Creighton Resources

**The Creighton EDGE** – assistance with academic support, pre-professional preparation, and advising

~ Lower level of the Reinert Library; [www.creighton.edu/edge](http://www.creighton.edu/edge); 402-280-5566

**Student Support Services** – academic support program for 1<sup>st</sup> Generation and low-income students

~ Old Gym, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor; [www.creighton.edu/sss](http://www.creighton.edu/sss); 402-280-2749

**Office of Multicultural Affairs** – services and programs that advance cultural understanding of the Creighton family

~ Harper Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor; [www.creighton.edu/oma](http://www.creighton.edu/oma); 402-280-2459

**John P. Fahey Career Center** – assistance with career discernment, internships, and resume writing

~ Harper Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor; [www.creighton.edu/careercenter](http://www.creighton.edu/careercenter); 402-280-2722

**Office of Financial Aid** – assistance with understanding aid packages, student employment, and financial counseling

~ Harper Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor; [www.creighton.edu/financialaid](http://www.creighton.edu/financialaid); 402-280-2731

**Center for Health and Counseling** – a full-service counseling center and medical clinic

~ Harper Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor; [www.creighton.edu/chc](http://www.creighton.edu/chc); 402-280-2735