

NWIC College Knowledge Glossary

A

Academia/The Academy/Academe: College/higher education

Academic Calendar: The schedule your college works on

Academic Citation Styles: The styles you use to show sources in your paper. The most popular styles are MLA, for the humanities, APA, for the sciences, and Chicago, for professional and technical publishing.

Academic Integrity: The promise you make to use your own voice and writing based on research, and not to plagiarize.

Accredited Institution: An institution recognized as providing a quality education by state and federal boards of education.

Add/drop course: To add a new course to your schedule, or unenroll from a course you are enrolled in.

Administrative withdrawal: An action by a college administrator to withdraw a student from a class.

Advisor: Someone who helps a college student to understand which courses to take and how the courses will affect the student's future.

AIBL: American Indian Business Leaders

AICF: American Indian College Fund

AIHEC: American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Associate's Degree: A two-year degree.

Audit: To sit in on a course without taking it for credit.

B

Bachelor's degree: A four-year degree. Four-year degrees offered at NWIC include Native Environmental Science, Native Studies & Language & Tribal Governance & Business Management

Baccalaureate: Another name for a Bachelor's degree.

Book voucher: A slip that allows a student to purchase a book without money, issued based on need.

Blue slip: Allows a student to enter a class late.

C

Capstone: One name for a final project for a Bachelor's degree.

Catalog: A course catalog shows the available courses at an institution and the schedule for those courses.

Census data: Information about a population based on the US census

Certificate program: A short (several months to one year) program to obtain a certificate that is mostly useful in a job trade. NWIC offers a certificate in Chemical Dependency.

Class schedule: List of which classes you are taking and when you are taking them.

Challenge: To "challenge a class" means to try and retake a placement test, or show that you have the skills to pass up the class and start in a higher course. Often used when students don't feel they need all of the courses in a developmental education sequence.

COMPASS: Placement test used to determine where a student will begin their education.

Commencement: Ceremony marking when a student earns a degree.

Credits: Earned "points" toward a bachelor's degree. One credit hour equals fifty minutes of class time. Most classes are between three and five credit hours per week.

Curriculum: The assignments, readings and lectures that go into teaching a course.

D

Dean's list: List of students who excel in a quarter.

Direct Transfer: Amount of credits that allows a student to transfer from one school to another. Often used between community colleges (2-year programs) and universities (4-year programs and graduate schools).

Discipline: An academic discipline is a field of study, like English or math.

Doctorate: A graduate degree, aka a PhD or EdD. A doctorate requires up to five years of work beyond a Bachelor's degree. Doctoral students must obtain a Master's degree either before they begin their program or as part of their doctoral program, and write a book-length dissertation discussing their original research. A doctorate allows one to work in higher levels of education, as a university professor or high-level administrator, or in specialized fields like psychology.

E

Educational Program: The program a student enrolls in to obtain a degree.

Enrollment: The act of enrolling, or the amount of students enrolled in a class or program.

Extended sites: Remote campuses that are part of the same school. NWIC has extended sites at Tulalip, Port Gamble, Nisqually, Swinomish, Muckleshoot and Nez Perce.

F

Faculty: Teachers at a college.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The computerized application each student must fill out to determine their qualification for federal government grants and loans.

FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Act to protect students' private information in college environment.

First Year Cohort: Refers to the group of students in their first year of classes.

G

General Education course: A class required of all students across disciplines. Examples include English 101, College Algebra and Biology.

GPA: Accumulated Grade Point Average. An average calculated based on all college grades so far.

Graduate school: College beyond a Bachelor's degree, usually to earn a Master's degree or a doctoral degree.

H

Humanities: Term for all fields that relate to arts and literature, including English, Communications, History, and others.

I

IEP: Individualized Education Plan. Individual program of study for high school students with learning issues or disabilities. Students of color (African-American, Native American, Hispanic American) are disproportionately placed into IEPs in American schools.

Indigenous Service Learning: Department at NWIC designed to help students conduct service projects and help their community.

Inherent Rights: Rights with which a person is born and rights which a tribe or people are due by their ancestral presence on the land.

J

JICS: The system used at Northwest Indian College to supply grades, keep track of students rosters, and help teachers contact students.

L

Late registration: Registration after the deadline for the next quarter. Usually carries a penalty such as a fee, and presents a limited amount of classes due to most sections already being full.

M

Major: The area of study for a completed Bachelor's degree.

Master's degree: A degree obtained after a Bachelor's degree and before a doctorate, allowing one to work at higher levels in the sciences and in academia. Well-known Master's degrees include the MBA: Master of Business Administration, which allows a person to work at high levels of business, MFA: Master of Fine Arts, which allows a person to teach in the arts, and MS: Master of Science, which allows a person to work in the high levels of the sciences as a researcher or teacher.

Math and Writing Center: NWIC's tutoring center. Located on the back side of the library under the stairs.

Matriculation: Becoming a student and enrolling at college.

Mentor: A student who helps another student with college success skills. NWIC has a strong mentor program conducted through the Indigenous Service Learning center.

Midterms: The middle of the quarter. Refers usually to tests or large assignments due in the middle of the quarter.

Midterm grades: Grades issued in the middle of the quarter that let students know how well they are doing. Issued as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) .

N

Native Environmental Science degree: A Bachelor's degree from NWIC focused on helping students incorporate traditional tribal ecological knowledge with modern-day research methods.

Natural Science: The branch of science that deals with the physical world: biology, ecology, physics, chemistry, etc.

O

Online bookstore: The online resource for buying textbooks at NWIC. Since only a limited number of textbooks are stocked in the bookstore, you'll buy most books through the online bookstore.

P

Pell grant: Government grant to help students pay for school, based on financial need.

Personal statement: Short statement that shows where you are as a student and what your goals are. Used to apply for scholarships or academic programs.

Phi Theta Kappa: International honors society for two-year colleges.

Placement testing: Testing that determines which classes a student needs to take in his or her first year.

Plagiarism: Passing off another's work as your own. This is different from using sources and citations, which clearly denote someone else's research that you are using to support your own.

Portfolio: Collection of accumulated work due at the end of the quarter.

Post-secondary: See graduate school

Prerequisite: A class you have to take before you can take certain other classes. For example, English 101 is a prerequisite to English 102.

President's list: List of students who excel in the current quarter.

Program of Study: The area you are going to direct your studies in. You can unofficially direct your studies in one direction, or make it official by declaring your major.

Q

Quarterly schedule: Your schedule for each quarter.

R

Registration: The act of registering for classes, or the ability to register, as in “Registration opens in April.”

Resident/non-resident: Status of a student based on where they live, used to calculate tuition. Resident students get cheaper tuition at their state’s school, for example, Washington residents get cheaper tuition at Western Washington University. You must live in the state for one year to qualify as a resident. NWIC does not use resident tuition; tuition is cheaper for enrolled tribal members instead.

S

SAP: Satisfactory Academic Progress. Measure of how well you’re doing as a student based on your GPA and probationary status. Students must achieve SAP in order to continue through college.

Scholarship: An award to help with schooling. Scholarships are given in certain areas to certain students, based on academic merit (how well you’re doing in your classes) and need.

Social Sciences: Academic disciplines that focus on the scientific study of human and social relationships. Includes, among others, sociology and anthropology.

Sovereignty: Self-rule or the right to self-rule. Indian tribes have struggled to achieve sovereignty despite genocide, harassment, and government policies that restrict Indian rights. The tribal college movement is an important part of achieving sovereignty because it allows the community to control their people’s education.

Stafford Loan: Loan offered through the federal government to finance education. Interest is charged at different amount based on whether the loan is subsidized by the federal government or not. NWIC students are encouraged to use tribal funds, scholarships and grants rather than take out loans for their degrees here.

Strategic plan: Plan to direct finances, efforts and study toward one goal.

Student email: Email account directed through the school that is used for announcements and for teachers to contact you.

Student ID: Identification, by number or a card, that shows your enrollment at a school.

Syllabus: Document handed out on the first day of college to explain the schedule that the class will follow.

T

Transcripts: Records of your previous academic work, supplied when a student transfers schools. A student seeking to transfer with an Associate’s would need transcripts from NWIC, and a student with a Bachelor’s from NWIC seeking to obtain a Master’s or doctoral degree would need transcripts.

Tuition and fees: The amount of money paid for classes and class fees and materials.

Tutor: Another student or professional hired to help other students with their class work.

V

Valedictorian: The highest achiever academically in a graduating class each school year. Usually speaks at graduation.

Vocational school: College focused on a highly skilled trade such as carpentry, welding, car repair, electrical work, or other trades. NWIC has a few vocational programs. Bellingham Technical College is a vocational school.

W

Work study: A job on campus for which you are paid through the school and sometimes obtain class credits.

WIP: Work In Progress. Refers to anything you are working on but not done with.

