

USING THIS BULLETIN

Definitions and Abbreviations

Described below are definitions referring to degrees, majors, options, minors, concurrent or sequential majors programs, and integrated undergraduate-graduate degree programs:

Associate Degree

Two-year majors that, with few exceptions, provide concentrated instruction to prepare graduates for specialized occupational assignments.

Baccalaureate Degree

Penn State offers more than 160 majors with four-year baccalaureate degrees. A baccalaureate program of study shall consist of no less than 120 credits. Students may elect to take courses beyond the minimum requirements of a degree program. Particular types of baccalaureate degrees identify educational programs having common objectives and requirements. Degree programs may provide academic, pre-professional, or professional experiences and preparation. Majors lead to a baccalaureate degree. Each student must select a major within a baccalaureate degree type. If options are offered within a major, a student selects one. The student may also elect to enroll in a minor to supplement the major. Alternatively, the student may seek to enroll in multiple majors within the same type of baccalaureate degree or to enroll in a simultaneous degree program.

Undergraduate majors offered at Penn State lead to one or more of the following baccalaureate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Architectural Engineering (five-year program), Bachelor of Architecture (five-year program), Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Humanities, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (five-year program), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Musical Arts, and Bachelor of Philosophy.

Not all degrees are offered at every location. Baccalaureate degrees offered at Penn State include both those that are designed to provide an academic (including pre-professional) experience and those that are specifically designed to provide professional preparation.

To ensure excellence, all professionally oriented degree majors provide a strong academic base. The Bachelor of Arts degree (with a given major) is an academic degree; the Bachelor of Science degree (with a given major) and the bachelor's degree in any subject area (e.g., Bachelor of Architecture) are professional degrees. The Bachelor of Philosophy degree, described in the Intercollege Undergraduate Programs section of this Bulletin, is planned individually and may be designed to serve either academic or professional purposes.

Major

A major is a plan of study in a field of concentration within a type of baccalaureate degree. Colleges and other degree-granting units may have common requirements for all of their majors. Each major may have requirements identified in prescribed, additional, and supporting courses and related areas categories. Elective credits are not considered part of the major.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MAJORS (<https://senate.psu.edu/curriculum/introduction-to-guide-to-curricular-procedures/section-one-baccalaureate-degree-curriculum/>)

Option

An option is a specialization within a major that should involve at least one-third of the course work credits required for the major, but need not be more than 18 credits. All options within a major must have in common at least one-fourth of the required course work credits in the major. A student can only be enrolled in an option within their own major.

Minor

A minor is defined as an academic program of at least 18 credits that supplements a major. A minor program may consist of course work in a single area or from several disciplines, with at least 6 but ordinarily not more than half of the credits at the 400-course level. Total requirements are to be specified and generally limited to 18 to 21 credits. Entrance to some minors may require the completion of a number of prerequisites, including courses, portfolios, auditions, or other forms of documentation that are not included in the total requirements for the minor. All courses for a minor require a grade of C or above.

Concurrent and Sequential Majors Programs

At the baccalaureate or associate degree level, students may be approved for admission to more than one major under the Concurrent Majors Program. A Concurrent Majors Program is one in which students take courses to concurrently meet the requirements of at least two majors, with graduation for all majors in the program occurring during the same semester. Concurrent majors must all be at the baccalaureate or associate degree level. Under the Sequential Majors Program, upon graduation from an associate or baccalaureate degree program, a student may apply for re-enrollment in another undergraduate degree program.

Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Program

An Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program combines a Penn State baccalaureate degree with a master's degree as a continuous program of study. An IUG program allows qualifying students to:

- create a cohesive plan for baccalaureate and master's degree studies, with advising informed by requirements for both degree programs;
- complete the combined degree program in less time than it would take to complete each program separately;
- become familiar with the expectations of graduate studies in their programs;
- access the resources of the Graduate School;
- learn from current graduate students who share academic interests.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Codes

Described below are common codes, abbreviations, acronyms, and other types of academic shorthand used at Penn State, along with a brief explanation of each.

| Code | Explanation |
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| A | Special topics (course suffix); indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C) |
| A & A | Arts and Architecture (college abbreviation) |
| AA | Arts and Architecture (college code) |
| AAPPM | Academic Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual |
| AB | Abington (campus code) |

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| AB | Abington (college code) | COMM | Communications (college abbreviation) |
| ACUE | Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education | CORD | Course is coordinated with other course(s) (course characteristic) |
| AG | Agricultural Sciences (college code) | COST | Course requires an additional fee (course characteristic) |
| AL | Altoona (campus code) | D | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297D, HIST 297E) |
| AL | Altoona (college code) | DAA | Dean/Director of Academic Affairs |
| AP | Advanced Placement Program | DF | Deferred grade (grade reporting symbol) |
| APPL | Course requires an application with the School of Music (course characteristic) | DN | Dickinson School of Law (campus code) |
| APPT | By appointment (class meeting time) | DS | DuBois (campus code) |
| AU | Audit, attended regularly (grade reporting symbol) | DU | Division of Undergraduate Studies (college code) |
| AUDN | Course requires an audition (course characteristic) | D U S | Division of Undergraduate Studies (college abbreviation) |
| AUU | Audit, did not attend regularly (grade reporting symbol) | E | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297D, HIST 297E) |
| B | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C) | ECoS | Eberly College of Science |
| BA | Business, Smeal College of (college code) | ED | Education (college code) |
| BC | Behrend (college code) | EM | Earth and Mineral Sciences (college code) |
| BK | Berks (campus code) | EM SC | Earth and Mineral Sciences (college abbreviation) |
| BK | Berks (college code) | EN | Engineering (college code) |
| BR | Beaver (campus code) | ENGR | Engineering (college abbreviation) |
| BW | Brandywine (campus code) | EOP | Educational Opportunity Program |
| C | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C) | EPR | Early Progress Report |
| CA | Capital (college code) | EPS | Educational Planning Survey |
| CALC | Course requires a calculator (course characteristic) | ER | Behrend (campus code) |
| CAMP | College Assistance Migrant Program | ESL | English as a Second Language |
| CAT | Online catalog, University Libraries | EVEX | Course has evening exams (course characteristic) |
| CC | Commonwealth Campuses | F | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297F, HIST 297G) |
| CCP | College Contact Person | FE | Fayette (campus code) |
| CCRR | College Contact and Referral Representative | FINL | Course has a final exam (course characteristic) |
| CCSG | Council of Commonwealth Student Governments | FL | Failure under pass/fail option (grade reporting symbol) |
| CE | Continuing Education | FYS | First-Year Seminar |
| CGPA | Cumulative grade-point average | G | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297F, HIST 297G) |
| CIC | Committee on Institutional Cooperation | GA | Arts (General Education code) |
| CLEP | College-Level Examination Program | GA | Greater Allegheny (campus code) |
| CM | Communications (college code) | | |
| CNCR | Course is scheduled concurrently with another course (course characteristic) | | |
| CNTL | Course is controlled (course characteristic) | | |

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| GH | Humanities (General Education code) | J | Individualized instruction (course suffix) |
| GHW | Health and Wellness (General Education code) | K | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297I, HIST 297K) |
| GN | Graduate non-degree (college code) | L | Lecture section (course suffix) |
| GN | Natural Sciences (General Education code) | LA | Liberal Arts (college code) |
| GPA | Grade-point average | LEAP | Learning Edge Academic Program |
| GQ | Quantification (General Education code) | LIAB | Course has liability attendance policy (course characteristic) |
| GR | Graduate (level code) | LV | Lehigh Valley (campus code) |
| GR ND | Graduate non-degree (college code) | LW | Law (level code) |
| GS | Social and Behavioral Sciences (General Education code) | M | Writing Across the Curriculum and Honors (course suffix) |
| GV | Great Valley (campus code) | MA | Mont Alto (campus code) |
| GV | Great Valley (college code) | MAC | Morgan Academic Center (for Student-Athletes) |
| GWS | Writing/Speaking (General Education code) | MD | Medical (level code) |
| H | Honors course or section (course suffix) | MD | Medicine (college code) |
| HB | Harrisburg (campus code) | MED | Medicine (college abbreviation) |
| H H D | Health and Human Development (college abbreviation) | MEP | Multicultural Engineering Program |
| HH | Health and Human Development (college code) | MRC | Multicultural Resource Center |
| HN | Hazleton (campus code) | MS | Military Science (ROTC) (college code) |
| HY | Hershey Medical Center (campus code) | NACADA | National Academic Advising Association |
| I | Incomplete (grade reporting symbol) | NC | Non-credit (level code) |
| I | Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297I, HIST 297K) | NDEGR/C/H | Nondegree Regular/Conditional/High School (Classification of Undergraduate Students) |
| I COL | Intercollege programs (college abbreviation) | NG | No grade (grade reporting symbol) |
| IB | International Baccalaureate Program | NK | New Kensington (campus code) |
| IC | Intercollege programs (college code) | NR | Nursing (college code) |
| IL | International Cultures (General Education code) | NSO | New Student Orientation |
| INCP | Incomplete (grade reporting symbol) | OCLC | Course meets at an off-campus location (course characteristic) |
| INTG | Course is integrated with other courses (course characteristic) | ODS | Office for Disability Services |
| IS | Information Sciences and Technology (college code) | OSA | Office of Student Aid |
| IST | Information Sciences and Technology (college abbreviation) | OUR | Office of the University Registrar |
| ITS | Information Technology Services | P | Pass (noncredit course) (grade reporting symbol) |
| IUG | Integrated undergraduate/graduate degree programs | P | Practicum (or laboratory) section (course suffix) |
| IVID | Course uses interactive video (course characteristic) | PC | Penn College (Pennsylvania College of Technology; campus code) |
| | | PREQ | Course has prerequisites (course characteristic) |
| | | PS | Pass (pass/fail option) (grade reporting symbol) |
| | | PSU | Pennsylvania State University |
| | | R | Recitation section (course suffix) |
| | | R | Research (grade reporting symbol) |
| | | RAP | Recommended Academic Plan |
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| ROTC | Reserve Officers' Training Corps |
| S | First-Year Seminar (course suffix) |
| SA | Satisfactory achievement (grade reporting symbol) |
| SATL | Course is offered at multiple locations via satellite uplink (course characteristic) |
| SC | Science, Eberly College of (college code) |
| SCIEN | Science, Eberly College of (college abbreviation) |
| SEGM | Course is segmented (course characteristic) |
| SGPA | Semester grade-point average |
| SH | Shenango (campus code) |
| SI | Supplemental Instruction |
| SITE | Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence |
| SL | Schuylkill (campus code) |
| SLO | Special Living Options |
| SOTP | Student Orientation and Transition Programs |
| SRTE | Student Ratings of Teacher Effectiveness |
| SSSP | Student Support Services Program |
| T | First-Year Seminar and Honors (course suffix) |
| TMDT | Course has additional meeting times/dates (course characteristic) |
| U | United States Cultures/International Cultures and Honors (course suffix) |
| UAO | Undergraduate Admissions Office |
| UC | University College (college code) |
| UE | Undergraduate Education |
| UFO | University Fellowships Office |
| UG | Undergraduate (level code) |
| UG ND | Undergraduate non-degree (college code) |
| UN | Undergraduate nondegree (college code) |
| UN | Unsatisfactory achievement (grade reporting symbol) |
| UP | University Park (campus code) |
| UPUA | University Park Undergraduate Association |
| US | United States Cultures (General Education code) |
| W | Official withdrawal (grade reporting symbol) |
| W | Writing Across the Curriculum (course suffix) |
| WB | Wilkes-Barre (campus code) |
| WC | World Campus |

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| WEB | Web course; offered entirely through the Internet (course characteristic) |
| WEP | Women in Engineering Program |
| WF | Withdrew failing (grade reporting symbol) |
| WISE | Women in the Sciences and Engineering |
| WN | Withdrew no grade (grade reporting symbol) |
| WP | Withdrew passing (grade reporting symbol) |
| WS | Worthington Scranton (campus code) |
| X | Writing Across the Curriculum and First-Year Seminar (course suffix) |
| XC | State College Continuing Education (campus code) |
| XF | Failure, academic dishonesty (course grade) |
| XS | Foreign studies program (campus code) |
| Y | Writing Across the Curriculum course and United States Cultures/International Cultures (course suffix) |
| YK | York (campus code) |

Common abbreviations for course attributes and suffixes can be found in the University Course Descriptions (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/>) section.