

Glossary of Academic Terms

This information is provided to assist you in finding your way through academic life at Los Angeles Southwest College

AA / AS Degree: An Associate in Arts or Associate in Science is granted upon successful completion of all degree requirements — typically 60 units with a “C” average or better. AA/AS degrees are awarded by community colleges.

Academic Probation: The Student has attempted a minimum of 12 semester units of work and has a grade-point average less than a 2.0.

Academic Dismissal: When a student is on academic or progress probation for three consecutive semesters he or she may be dismissed from the college

Academic Year: The time period containing fall, winter, spring and summer terms.

Accredited: A college that is officially recognized by a professional association as maintaining certain standards. Accredited programs qualify graduates for admission to higher, or more specialized, programs and for professional practice.

Add / Drop: A student may add a course or courses during the first two weeks of the semester. A student may also drop a class after registering for it. Adding and dropping classes must be done by the deadline dates printed in the current course schedule. Students can withdraw from a course after the designated drop deadline, but will not receive a fee refund. Students wishing to add, drop or withdraw from courses can obtain the appropriate paperwork from the Admissions Office.

Articulation: An agreement between Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) and another college or university spelling out which LASC courses meet requirements at the other school and are transferable. An articulation agreement will tell you which classes to take for your major.

Catalog: A comprehensive resource listing Los Angeles Southwest College regulations, programs and course descriptions, degree and graduation requirements, transfer requirements and more.

Certificate: Awarded upon completion of a prescribed series of courses. A certificate indicates skill proficiency in many technical and vocational areas.

Commencement: A term used to refer to the graduation ceremony held in June.

Continuing Student: Has attended at least one semester at Los Angeles Southwest College and is currently enrolled.

Co-requisite: A course you are required to take simultaneously in order to enroll in another particular course.

Curriculum: An organized program of study and courses required for a specific degree program.

Discipline: A field of study in which a student may concentrate, such as sociology, anthropology, or mathematics

Electives: Courses that are not required as part of a degree program, but are generally chosen and used by the student to supplement or enrich the required curriculum or to explore one's area of interest.

Full-time Student: A student who is enrolled in at least 12 units per semester.

General Education (G.E.) Requirements Courses students must satisfactorily complete to obtain a degree. General education ensures students receive a well-rounded education.

Grade Points: Quality points assigned for one term credit of each grade: A = 4.0; B = 3; C = 2.0; D = 1; F = 0.0. Grades of INC and W are not computed.

Grades: Letters used to indicate the quality of academic work completed in a given course: A, B, C, D, F, INC, and W.

IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum): General education requirements for students transferring to the University of California and/or California State University systems.

Major: The primary field of study in which an individual wishes to receive a degree.

Matriculation: The process of initially enrolling in college: application, assessment, orientation, counseling and attendance. The components, when used together, are designed to help students achieve their academic goals.

New Student

Never before attended or enrolled at a college or university.

Occupational / Vocational Programs: Programs which prepare students to go directly into the work force in two years or less.

Prerequisites: Requirements that must be completed before enrollment in a particular course.

Progress Probation: The student has enrolled in a total of at least 12 semester units and the percentage of all units in which the student has enrolled and for which entries of "W" (withdrawal), "I" (incomplete), and "NC" (no credit) are recorded reaches or exceeds fifty percent.

Registration: The process students follow to select classes and pay fees.

Returning Student: Has previously attended Los Angeles Southwest College and has at least one semester absence and is coming back.

Syllabus: A list of course objectives, lecture topics, assigned reading, exams, etc., prepared and distributed by a professor at the beginning of the term.

TBA: Commonly used abbreviation for "to be arranged"; time, place, or credit of a course is to be arranged with the instructor.

Transfer: The process of going from a community college to another college or university. The community college program typically provides the first two years of preparation for the baccalaureate degree.

Withdraw: To voluntarily leave a course without academic penalty. A "W" letter grade will be placed on the student's transcript for each course attempted.