

First-Year Experience (FYE) Glossary of Terms

General Terms

1. **First-Year Experience (FYE):** Refers to a set of programs, courses, and activities designed to support new college students in their transition to higher education. It aims to foster academic success, social integration, and familiarity with campus resources, helping students build a strong foundation for their college journey.
2. **First-Time-in-College (FTIC):** Refers to students who have completed high school and are entering their first term as a college student. (Also applies to students with college dual credit who are entering college after graduating high school.)
3. **First-Generation:** Refers to a student whose parents or guardians did not complete a certificate or degree at a college or university, making them the first in their immediate family to do so.
4. **CougarWeb:** Students' online hub for their Collin College student account. Students use CougarWeb to access Workday, Canvas, Cougar Connect and many other important resources.
5. **Workday Student:** Students' online portal to search and register for courses for the upcoming term. Students can use Workday Student to pay for classes, view schedules, and access academic history, among many things.
6. **Canvas:** Collin College's learning management system where students access online courses, message instructors, and engage with college programs.

Academic Terms

7. **Associate Degree:** A two-year undergraduate degree that requires 60 credit hours and prepares students for entry-level jobs or transfer to a bachelor's program.
8. **Bachelor Degree:** A four-year undergraduate degree that typically requires completing 120–130 credits and provides in-depth study in a specific field. It prepares graduates for professional careers or further education in graduate programs.
9. **Syllabus:** A document provided in a course by a professor that outlines the course structure, including topics, assignments, grading criteria, and important dates like exams and deadlines.
10. **Credit Hours:** The number of hours per week a class meets. Usually, courses are worth 3-4 credit hours, and students need a specific number of credit hours to earn a degree or certificate.
11. **Prerequisite:** A course or requirement that must be completed before enrolling in a more advanced course. (For example, College Algebra is a prerequisite for Precalculus, which is a prerequisite for Calculus 1.)

12. **Corequisite:** A course or requirement that must be completed at the same time with another requirement. (For example, most science courses must be taken with a corequisite lab course.)
13. **Major:** A student's primary program or field of study during their time in college, such as Nursing, Cybersecurity, or General Studies, to name a few. At Collin, this can also be referred to as a "program of study" or "academic program".
14. **General Education (Gen Ed) Requirements:** A set of courses outside a student's major or program that are required for an associate's degree, providing a broad educational foundation. These are sometimes referred to as "Core Classes" or "Core Components". (These are different than major courses, which are strictly related to a student's program of study.)
15. **Electives:** Courses that students can choose outside of their major requirements, allowing them to explore interests.
16. **GPA (Grade Point Average):** A numerical representation of a student's academic performance on a 4.0 scale, calculated from grades in all courses.
17. **Academic Probation:** A warning status when a student's GPA falls below a 2.0, indicating that they need to improve their grades to stay in good academic standing.
18. **Academic Standing:** Refers to a student's overall academic performance based on their grades and GPA. It determines whether a student is in good standing, on probation, or at risk of suspension.
19. **Academic Year (AY):** Refers to a college schedule divided into three terms – Fall, Spring, and Summer. The fall semester runs from August to December, the spring semester from January to May, and the optional summer semester from May to August.

Campus Resources & Support

20. **Office Hours:** Designated times when instructors are available to meet with students for extra help, advice, or questions about the course.
21. **Academic Advisor:** A staff member who helps students select courses, understand degree requirements, and plan their academic path, especially if they plan to transfer to a 4-year college.
22. **CougarQ:** A service that lets you sign into a virtual line for academic advising using your home computer, smart phone, or a campus kiosk.
23. **Counselor:** A staff member who provides support and guidance to students on personal, social, and emotional issues. They offer resources for mental health and life skills to help students navigate challenges during their college experience.
24. **Tutor:** Student or staff member at a tutoring center who provides individualized academic support to students, helping them understand course material, improve study skills, and

enhance their overall academic performance. Tutors often specialize in specific subjects and work one-on-one or in small groups to facilitate learning.

25. **Financial Aid:** The financial aid office helps students access and manage funding for their education by offering guidance on financial aid options and completing the FAFSA. They provide support with loans, disbursement of awards, and maintaining aid eligibility, while also promoting financial literacy.
26. **Veteran Services:** The Veterans Resource Centers (VRCs) offer support to veterans and their families by connecting them with resources for a smooth transition into college and academic success. The centers provide study areas, computer stations, and networking opportunities, while also coordinating services like financial aid information and VA benefits support.
27. **ACCESS (Disability Services):** Accommodations at Collin College for Equal Support Services (ACCESS) provides support and services to ensure equal access and opportunities for qualified students with disabilities.
28. **Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Success:** Provides free professional tutoring services and learning support to students and community members in a welcoming environment.

Class & Scheduling Terms

29. **Drop:** Dropping a class means that a student officially withdraws from a course before the term census date. When a student drops a class, it is removed from their schedule and will not appear on their transcript.
30. **Withdraw:** Dropping a course after the add/drop period, often resulting in a "W" on the transcript, which does not affect GPA but indicates that the student did not complete the course.
31. **Lab:** A hands-on class or session that complements a lecture, often required for science courses like biology or chemistry.
32. **Online/Hybrid Courses:** Classes that are offered partially or entirely online. Hybrid courses combine in-person and online instruction.
33. **Waitlist:** A list you can join if a class is full. If a spot opens up, students on the waitlist may be able to enroll after being notified through campus email.
34. **Express Class:** Class that takes place over a shorter period of time than the typical 16-week period. (For example, some express classes take place during the first or last 8 weeks of the semester.)

Campus Life & Student Involvement

35. **Student Engagement:** Student Engagement is an office that provides co-curricular civic, educational, leadership, and social programs designed to enrich the student experience. They also manage campus tours and distribute Collin College ID Cards.

36. **Clubs & Organizations:** Student Organizations are groups formed around common interests, activities, or goals, offering students opportunities for leadership, networking, and personal growth. They are a great way to develop social, educational, and leadership skills.
37. **Fitness Center:** Fitness centers at Collin College provide students with free facilities and equipment for exercise, promoting physical health, wellness, and stress relief. (Students must present a valid Collin College ID to use these facilities.)
38. **Cougar Connect:** Collin College's online portal to view upcoming virtual and in-person events around the district.
39. **Student Government Association (SGA):** A student-led group that represents student interests and organizes campus events.
40. **Intramurals:** Recreational sports leagues open to all students, providing a fun way to stay active and meet people.

Technology & Campus Services

41. **Campus ID Card:** A student identification card that provides access to campus events, library resources, fitness centers, and sometimes discounts at local businesses.
42. **CougarWiFi:** The campus internet network. (Will require a student login for access.)
43. **OneLogin:** A single sign-on system that students need to install to their device before gaining access to Collin applications like Workday Student, Canvas, and Office 365.

Financial Terms

44. **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** The form that students fill out to apply for federal financial aid, including grants, loans, and work-study programs.
45. **Scholarship:** Financial aid awarded to students based on merit, need, or special skills, which doesn't need to be repaid.
46. **Grant:** Financial aid that doesn't need to be repaid, typically awarded based on financial need.
47. **Student Loan:** Money borrowed to pay for education that must be repaid with interest after graduation.
48. **Work-Study:** A program that provides part-time jobs for students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay for their education.
49. **Tuition and Fees:** The cost of enrolling in courses and using campus facilities, often paid per credit hour.
50. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** A school's policy concerning if a student is meeting all of their educational requirements (GPA and completion) and is on target to graduate on time with a degree or certificate.