

GLOSSARY OF EDUCATIONAL TERMS

Academic Advisors

Academic advisors are generally the first point of contact for a new student. They provide valuable information about MCC's programs and services, College policies and procedures.

Academic Counselor

Academic Counselors assist students who need to strengthen their basic skills in reading, writing, and/or math, and students who are English language learners.

Accreditation

In the United States, schools and colleges voluntarily seek accreditation from non-governmental bodies. An institutional accrediting agency evaluates an entire educational organization in terms of its mission and the agency's standards or criteria. It accredits the organization as a whole. Besides assessing formal educational activities, it evaluates such things as governance and administration, financial stability, admissions and student services, institutional resources, student learning, institutional effectiveness, and relationships with internal and external constituencies. MCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Accreditation makes it possible to transfer completed courses to most other institutions.

Adult Education (AE)

AE is a program sponsored jointly by the Nebraska State Department of Education and Metropolitan Community College. The student is offered the opportunity to develop basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics.

AIM for Success

AIM (Academic Improvement) for Success is a program for the student who needs to develop his/her reading, writing, math and learning strategies before beginning a regular program of college study.

AKSARBEN Career Connectors Scholarships

AKSARBEN Career Connectors scholarships provide financial support, for up to two years, for low-income students pursuing programs in career and technical education in high skill, high demand fields. Teamed with partners at the Avenue Scholars program who also help prepare students for college, dedicated MCC staff help scholarship recipients navigate through college and on to a meaningful career in the community.

Applied Technology Course

Course offerings in an instructional program intended to prepare individuals for immediate entry into a specific occupation or career, within the skilled trades. The term "occupational course" is often used in the same context.

Apprenticeship

MCC offers a four-year apprenticeship training program in electrical and plumbing trades.

Articulation

Term used to describe the courses taught at MCC that the four-year institution will accept because the content is the same. An Articulation Agreement is an officially approved agreement between two institutions, which allows students to apply credits earned at one institution toward advanced standing, entry or transfer into a specific program at the other institution. Agreements can approve a course to transfer as equivalent to another course, or approve an entire associate degree to transfer to a specific four-year program. Such agreements help students make smooth transitions from one institution to another by minimizing duplication of coursework.

Assessment Services

A basic skills assessment program is available on each campus. The student participates in basic skills assessment in reading, English, science and mathematics.

Attrition

Withdrawal from an institution without formal completion.

Awards

MCC awards certificates and degrees upon successful completion of a course of study:

Certificate of Achievement

A certificate is awarded for a program of study that is at least 48 credit hours in length.

Career Certificate

Represents a structured sequence of courses that may be completed in a relatively short period of time – single term to multiple terms.

Degree

The associate degree is offered to a student completing a two-year program of study. MCC offers Associate in Arts (AA) degrees, Associate in Science degrees (AS), and Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees.

Blackboard

A comprehensive and flexible e-Learning software platform that delivers a complete course management system

Board of Governors Scholarship for GED Graduates

A two-year full-tuition scholarship is awarded each year to two graduating General Education Development (GED) students from Metropolitan Community College and other Adult Education programs in MCC's four-county service area.

Board of Governors Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

Public and private high schools in the four-county community college area can present a two-year full tuition scholarship to a graduating senior. Applications are available from the high school guidance counselor(s).

Board of Governors Special Recognition Scholarship

The Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Community College Area established the Special Recognition Scholarships valued at \$1,000 and no more than six scholarships are awarded each fiscal year. The scholarship is to be used only for tuition and mandatory fees at Metropolitan Community College.

Board of Governors Tuition Grant (BGTG)

A recipient must have financial need and be a legal resident of Nebraska. This grant can only be used to pay tuition charges and mandatory fees. A student who has already attained a Bachelor's degree is eligible to be awarded these funds.

Career Academy

Designed to provide high school juniors and seniors with opportunities to explore various career fields and get a jumpstart on their post-secondary education.

Career Services

A wide range of career, employment and support services are available at the College's Elkhorn Valley, Fort Omaha and South Omaha campuses. Career Services staff members provide individualized assistance to people in making career decisions, seeking employment opportunities, and upgrading skills to retain employment.

College for Kids

A summer enrichment program for children ages 3-12 for the purpose of introducing children and their parents to the college environment and providing a service to the constituents of MCC's four-county area.

College for Teens

A summer enrichment program for children ages 12-17 for the purpose of introducing teenagers and their parents to the college environment and providing a service to the constituents of MCC's four-county area.

CollegeNOW!

CollegeNOW! is a program specifically designed for high school students to jumpstart their college education with discounted tuition. High school students who enroll in CollegeNOW! classes receive a 50 percent tuition discount.

College Success Navigator

The College Success Navigator (CSN) provides proactive, ongoing, individualized support designed to help program participants persist and successfully complete their education and career goals.

Community College

An educational institution operating and offering programs pursuant to Nebraska Statutes Sections 85-1501 to 85-1540.

Contact Center

The contact center is a multifaceted knowledge base available to help with students questions.

Contact Hours

Refers to the amount of time a student is in the classroom. Seattime is another term used to define contact hours.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education department offers non-credit technology, enrichment, recreational and career-oriented courses at College campuses and centers, cooperating schools, community centers, businesses and other local facilities.

Co-requisite

Requirements to enter selected courses have been established. A co-requisite course is a course that is required to be taken in conjunction with another course.

Course Description

This is a statement found in the College catalog which identifies the content of a specific course.

Course Number

This number identifies a specific course, such as MATH 1220 (Business Mathematics).

Course Objectives

Each course offered in the college has defined objectives which all faculty have agreed make-up the essentials of the course. These objectives are part of the syllabus distributed at the beginning of each class. Individual instructors may determine how to best assess the extent to which students have mastered these objectives: tests, homework assignments, presentations, research projects.

Course Section

This number, an example shown here as "1A", identifies a specific class such as BSAD 1000-1A (Introduction to Business at Elkhorn Valley on Monday, Wednesday and Friday [MWF] from 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM)

Course Subject

This four letter code identifies the area of study, such as English (ENGL).

Credit

Courses that apply to a degree or certificate awarded by Metropolitan Community College or meet pre-requisites for college level courses (Credit for developmental courses does not apply toward a degree, but satisfies pre-requisites for courses in degree programs.)

Credit Hour

This is a unit used in giving credit for a course and usually determines the number of hours per week the student is in class.

Course Weight

A number assigned by the state to each credit and noncredit course for funding purposes.

- 0.0 = **Nonreimbursable** programs, are those that are not reimbursed with state funding, e.g. recreational, leisure
- 1.0 = **General Education** programs, a series of core requirements for each program including courses in communication, critical thinking, information literacy, numeracy, scientific inquiry and social cultural awareness
- 1.5 = **Career Education** programs e.g. Human Services, Criminal Justice, Child Care

2.0 = **Technical Education** programs e.g., Information Technology, Nursing, Welding, Autobody Technology

Degrees

See Awards

Development

Institutional efforts to bring in external financial resources to supplement college budgets. This includes private donations, in-kind gifts, and public/private grants.

Duplicated Headcount

Duplicated headcount counts each student for every course taken. Headcount and Seatcount are also terms associated with duplicated headcount. Unduplicated headcount counts each student only once.

Disability Support Services (DSS)

DSS counselors are available on each campus to serve the needs of students with disabilities.

Dual Enrollment

Partnership between MCC and high school districts throughout the greater Omaha area. Dual enrollment allows high school students to earn both high school and college credit at same time. MCC credits earned may transfer to other college or university which accepts MCC credits. Courses are taught in the individual high school classroom by high school teachers that meet the MCC faculty requirements.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The EFC is used to determine the applicant's eligibility for federal, state, and institutional student aid and is determined by the US Department of Education.

Elective

An elective class permits the student to select a course of his/her choice to apply toward program requirements.

English as a Second Language Classes (ESL)

MCC's English as a Second Language (ESL) program offers both credit and non-credit learning options for the student who needs to develop his/her English language proficiency. Both credit and non-credit classes are offered to provide a sequenced program of instruction.

Federal PLUS Loan

This loan program is designed to assist the parent(s) who wants to borrow money to help pay for the educational expenses for each child who is a dependent undergraduate student. The student must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours.

Federal Stafford Student Loan Program (FSSL)

This federal program provides low interest loan(s) to the student from lenders such as banks, credit unions, or savings and loan associations.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Students with exceptional financial need are eligible to be awarded this grant. Priority is given to the student who is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Federal Work Study (FWS)

The Federal Work-Study program provides part time employment for the eligible student. Work study positions are located both on- and off-campus.

Flipped Classroom

An instructional strategy that reverses the traditional educational arrangement by delivering traditional lecture materials and tests, often online, outside of the classroom and moves activities, including those that may have traditionally been considered homework, into the classroom.

Full-time Student

Any student enrolled in 12 or more quarter credit hours per quarter is considered a full-time student. A student enrolled in fewer than 12 quarter credit hours is considered a part-time student.

FTE

Full-Time Equivalent. One FTE is equal to 45 credit hours of instruction.

Gateway Program

Gateway to College provides students who have not been successful in the high school environment the opportunity for a fresh start on a college campus.

General Education Development (GED)

These classes prepare the adult for the GED examination, which is a nationally standardized test of high school equivalency for adults.

General Education Requirements

A series of core requirements that must be completed by every student that completes a degree at MCC.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

This is the cumulative, numerical average of the grades the student has received. The range may be from a low of 0.0 to a high of 4.0.

Grading System

An alphabetical representation of academic achievement:

- A – Excellent
- B – Above Average
- C – Average
- D – Below Average
- F – Failed
- I – Incomplete
- P – Pass
- R – Re-enroll
- V – Audit
- W – Withdrawal
- Z – No Grade Reported

Headcount

A measure of enrollment. Unduplicated counts each student only once during the term. Duplicated counts each student for every course taken. Headcount and Seatcount are also terms associated with duplicated headcount.

Hybrid

This is an alternative instructional delivery mode combining online technology and face-to-face interaction in a classroom.

Typically the mix of online and on campus contact between the instructor and the students is 50/50.

Independent Study

Independent study allows a student to pursue, for credit, subject areas of interest outside of the existing College course structure.

International Students

Individuals from another country that are in the US engaging in a full course of academic study in an accredited educational program that has been designated by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Department of Homeland Security.

Internship

This is work related to the student's program of study for which s/he receives college credit. The internship is generally taken near the end of a program of study.

Learning Management System

Software application used to plan, implement, and assess a specific learning process. It provides an instructor with a way to create and deliver content, monitor student participation, and assess student performance.

Lifelong Learning

A process or system through which individuals are able and willing to learn at all stages of life, from preschool years through old age.

Major

A major indicates a specific group of classes needed to complete a certificate or degree program. It is also referred to as the program of study.

Math Centers

Math Centers provide specialized drop-in math assistance, tutorial software and preparation for math placement exams and are available to all students taking MCC math classes.

MyWay

Formerly known as WebAdvisor, MyWay is MCC's online service that is available to students to access the following:

- Register for credit and non-credit classes
- View grades and class schedule
- Request official transcripts
- Drop classes
- Change address
- Obtain account summary by term
- Make a payment
- View and print degree audit
- Online courses

Nebraska State Grant (NSG)

Nebraska residents with exceptional financial need are eligible to be awarded this grant. The student must also be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

Noncredit

Refers to programs and courses that are not awarded college academic credit.

Non-Resident

An individual who does not qualify for the resident tuition rate and is not an international student is considered a non-resident and his/her assessed tuition is according to the non-resident schedule.

Online Courses

Coursework, assignments and testing are all completed online via the Internet. Students can complete their coursework at the time of day and a place convenient to them.

Option

A degree or certificate option is a specialization within a program. A degree or certificate is awarded for the program, not the option.

Part-Time Student

Any student enrolled in fewer than 12 quarter credit hours is considered a part-time student. A student enrolled in 12 or more quarter credit hours is considered a full-time student.

Passport Program

The Passport Program is a learning community for students interested in starting at MCC then transferring to a four year institution. The Program is offered in a block schedule and requires students to complete a pre-determined series of courses for 1 to 3 quarters.

Pell Grant

This Federal program provides a direct grant to the student to help pay college costs. Amounts awarded to the student depend on the cost of education, financial need and student's enrollment status.

Persistence

A standard measure of attrition. The degree to which a student persists in attaining her/his educational goal.

Prerequisite

Requirements to enter selected courses have been established. The student must complete these requirements before enrolling in the course.

Program of Study

A program of study indicates a specific group of classes needed to complete a certificate or degree program. It is also referred to as the major.

Quarter

This is one of four periods of instruction offered at MCC: Summer (SS), Fall (FA), Winter (WI) and Spring (SP). Each quarter is approximately 11 weeks in length.

Registration Specialists

Assist students with choosing and scheduling classes.

Resident

A student qualifies to register for resident tuition rates at Metropolitan Community College if s/he meets one of the following criteria:

- Has a Nebraska mailing address (PO Box not acceptable).

- Is a minor whose parents or legal guardian have a Nebraska mailing address (PO Box not acceptable).
- Is married to a spouse who has a Nebraska mailing address (PO Box not acceptable).
- Has attended or graduated from a Nebraska secondary school during the school year immediately prior to registration at MCC.

Retention

A student is “retained” when they return the following term (term-to-term retention) or the following academic year (year-to-year retention).

Seatcount

A measure of duplicated headcount. Duplicated counts each student for every course taken.

Single Parent Homemaker Services

Located at the Fort Omaha Campus, Single Parent/Homemaker provides a wide range of special support services, workshops and personal assistance to single parents, single pregnant women and displaced homemakers.

Special Assistance Grant (SAG)

This grant is designed to pay tuition and provide an allowance for mandatory fees, books, and supplies for the underemployed/unemployed student who has financial need as determined by the Financial Aid and Veteran Services Office. The recipient may only enroll in one class or less than six (6) quarter credit hours.

Tenth Day

State aid enrollment is computed using as a cutoff date the tenth (10th) day of instruction (business day) of each term. Tenth day data is not the same as audited or year-end data and should be interpreted as a snapshot of the term.

Term

This is one of four periods of instruction offered at MCC: Summer (SS), Fall (FA), Winter (WI) and Spring (SP). Also known as quarter, each term is approximately 11 weeks in length. The student must register and pay for each term s/he attends. The academic year begins with Fall term.

Transcript

An official record of the grades earned in an institution.

Transfer

The conveyance of a student's credits from one institution to another.

TRIO Services

Specialized TRIO Services counselors are assigned to each campus to provide assistance and support to the student from a low-income, first generation, disabled or educationally disadvantaged background. Program objectives help the student address educational deficiencies and overcome barriers of higher education.

Tutoring

Subject-oriented instruction is offered through the learning centers, math centers and writing centers by certified tutors.

Unduplicated Headcount

Unduplicated counts each student only once during the term. Duplicated counts each student for every course taken.

Headcount and Seatcount are also terms associated with duplicated headcount.

Vocational Education

Training for a specific vocation in industry or trade. Often referred to as “Applied Technology” education.

Work Study Programs

The programs are campus-based financial aid programs funded by the federal and state governments and by the institution.

Writing Centers

The Writing Centers provide specialized writing assistance. They are open to all students enrolled in the College in either credit or non-credit classes.

General Use Acronyms

A-to-B Associate to Bachelor
AA Associate in Arts
AAS Associate in Applied Science
AE Adult Education
AC Academic Council
AC Administrative Computing
ACBSP Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs
ACFEF American Culinary Federation Education Foundation Accrediting Commission
AFI Adjunct Faculty Institute
ARELLO Association of Real Estate License Law Officials
AT Dean's Office, Applied Technology
BGTG Board of Governors Tuition Grant
BGTS Board of Governors Tuition Scholarship
BOG Board of Governors
BU Dean's Office, Business and Human Services
CA Dean's Office, Culinary Arts and Horticulture
CAD Computer-Aided Drafting
CCPE Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (Nebraska)
CDS Curriculum Design Studio
CFOT Critical Facilities Operations Technology
CHRIE Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education
CSHSE Council for Standards in Human Service Education
CN Dean's Office, Construction Education
DSS Disability Support Services
ECH Equivalent Credit Hour
ER Dean's Office, English, English as a Second Language, and Reading
ESL English as a Second Language
FA Fall Quarter
FAM Financial Administrative Management
FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FIG Faculty Information Guide
FSEOG Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
FSSL Federal Stafford Student Loan Program
FTE Full-time Equivalent
FWS Federal Work Study
GED General Education Development
GeoWeb Electronic Library Catalog
GUI Graphical User Interface
HDIM Health Data and Information Management
HE Dean's Office, Health and Public Services
HLC Higher Learning Commission
HM Dean's Office, Humanities and Visual Arts
HR Human Resources
HYB Hybrid Class
I/IE International/Intercultural Education
IE Dean's Office, Information Technology and E-Learning
IDS Instructional Design Services
INS Immigration and Naturalization Services

ITS Information Technology Services
LW Dean's Office, Literacy and Workplace Skills
MCC Metropolitan Community College
MCCGI Metropolitan Community College Graduation Initiative
MS Dean's Office, Math and Natural Sciences
NATEF National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation
NCEC Nebraska Correctional Education Centers
NFI New Faculty Institute
OAC Outcomes Assessment Committee
PA Performance Appraisal
PDR Professional Development Report
PM Procedures Memorandums
PS Public Safety
REU Reimbursable Educational Unit
SOS Student Online Services
SP Spring Quarter
SS Summer Quarter
SS Student Services
SS Dean's Office, Social Sciences
TrEC Transitional Education Center
WI Winter Quarter

Campuses, Buildings and Sites

ATC Applied Technology Center
BVC Bellevue/Offutt Center
CAET Center for Advanced and Emerging Technology
CASC Career and Academic Skills Center
CEC Construction Education Center
CON Connector Building—South Omaha Campus
DO Digital Space—72nd & Dodge
EVC Elkhorn Valley Campus
FRC Fremont Center
FOC Fort Omaha Campus
ICA Institute for the Culinary Arts—Fort Omaha Campus
ITC Industrial Training Center—South Omaha Campus
MHY Mahoney Building—South Omaha Campus
MXN MCC North Express—Highlander Accelerator Bldg, 3rd floor
MXS MCC Express—24th & Vinton
OFT Offutt Air Force Base
SCC Swanson Conference Center—Fort Omaha Campus
SOC South Omaha Campus
SRP Sarpy Center