



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. **ACT/SAT:** These letters are acronyms for American College Testing and the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Both tests are designed to measure a student's level of knowledge in basic areas such as math, science, English, and social studies. Colleges may require the results of either the ACT or SAT before granting admission.
2. **Advanced Classes:** Academic courses that challenge students' thinking in order to foster a higher level of understanding
3. **Associate Degree:** An undergraduate degree that you can earn after about two years from a junior or community college.
4. **Bachelor's Degree:** An undergraduate degree that you can earn from a college or university after about 4 years of study.
5. **Career Tech/Vocational:** This postsecondary option focuses on specialized career training that prepares students for specific careers.
6. **Certificate:** Awarded after completing a training program at a technical or vocational center. The certificate is required to legally be able to work in the profession for which the training was received.
7. **Class Rank:** Students in the same graduating class are numbered and listed based on their GPA. So a student who has a higher GPA than 300 of their peers in a class of 350 students would be given a class rank of 50.
8. **Club:** An association or organization at your school that is dedicated to a particular interest or activity.
9. **College:** An establishment that offers higher education.
10. **College Entrance Exam:** A standardized test, such as the ACT, that assesses a student's proficiency in specific academic subjects, as well as college-level abilities in general. They are often an application requirement for colleges and universities.
11. **College Prep Course:** A course that prepares students for college. These courses are usually more difficult than other general education classes. Many colleges have minimum application requirements that include a certain number of courses that students must complete successfully during high school.
12. **Community College/Jr College:** A two-year college that offers certificates and associate degrees. These colleges are a more affordable option compared to universities. Students who graduate with an associate degree can transfer to a public or private university to complete coursework for a bachelor's degree.

- 13. Concurrent Enrollment:** Literally meaning “enrolled in two places at once,” concurrent enrollment programs allow high school students to earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary certificate or college degree.
- 14. Counselor:** Counselors assist with career exploration, personal development, academic challenges and short-term personal counseling. They can also refer you to community agencies.
- 15. Creativity:** Using imagination to create ideas or produce artistic work.
- 16. Doctorate:** (Another way to refer to a PhD.) The highest level of degree that students can earn. PhDs are considered experts in their field of study. On average, it takes an additional four to eight years to complete this graduate level of study.
- 17. Employability:** Having skills needed for a job.
- 18. Extracurricular Activities:** This refers to any activities in which a student participates that are not high school courses or paid employment. This might include sports, clubs, or class-related activities such as debate tournaments
- 19. FAFSA:** Students getting ready for college or attending college complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to see if they qualify for financial assistance for college.
- 20. Financial Aid:** Money that is given or lent to students in order to help pay for their education.
- 21. First-Generation:** A first-generation student comes from a family where their biological parents did not complete a college degree.
- 22. GEAR UP:** GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a national grant program funded by the United States Department of Education to increase the number of low-income students prepared to be successful in postsecondary education. Currently K20 has three of these grants each serving a different segment of the Oklahoma student population.
- 23. GPA:** A student's GPA, or grade point average, is the equivalent of his or her average for curriculum course work. Each letter grade has an equivalent point value: A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2, D = 1, and F = 0. A student may determine the grade points for each course by multiplying the number of points a grade is worth times the number of credits the course carries. Thus, a "B" grade, worth three points, in a three-credit course is worth nine grade points; an "A" grade in the same three-credit course is worth 12 grade points. The grade point average is found by adding the total grade point values for all courses and dividing by the total number of credits attempted during the same period of time.
- 24. High School Classes:** Any class that a student will be or are taking in high school. These will help decide if a student likes certain components or skills needed in a career.
- 25. Internship:** A position, typically without pay, for students to work within an organization or company. This allows students to gain experience or necessary qualifications they can later use to be considered for paying positions.
- 26. Interview:** A formal meeting in which a person meets with a potential employer to help determine the person’s qualifications for the job.

- 27. Job:** A paid position. Jobs require completing tasks for pay.
- 28. Job Security:** Describes a job that is protected or one for which it is unlikely that the person holding it will lose the job. A person has job security when they work a job that is secure and likely to remain necessary or in demand.
- 29. Juris Doctor:** A graduate degree in law.
- 30. Legacy:** A legacy student is given special admission status because of a familial relationship to a previous graduate of the college or university for which they are applying.
- 31. Liberal Arts College:** Type of college that offers a variety of degrees in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.
- 32. Major:** A major is a student's chosen field of study. It usually requires the successful completion of a specified number of credit hours.
- 33. Master's Degree:** A graduate-level degree that allows you to focus on and master a specific subject area. It takes, on average, two years to complete. You usually must have completed coursework on the bachelor's degree level prior to being accepted into a master's program.
- 34. Mentor:** Someone who has experience in a certain area and advises someone else.
- 35. Minor:** A minor (as opposed to a major) is designated as a specific number of credit hours in a secondary field of study.
- 36. Oklahoma's Promise:** A scholarship program for Oklahoma students. Oklahoma's promise can help cover the cost of college tuition for students when they meet certain academic requirements.
- 37. PhD:** The highest level of degree that students can earn. PhDs are considered experts in their field of study. On average, it takes an additional four to eight years to complete this graduate level of study.
- 38. Postsecondary Education (PSE):** This term refers to education that takes place after high school. This might include college, career tech/vocational centers, trade schools, and military institutions.
- 39. Prestigious:** A college or university that is prestigious tends to be selective in the students it admits. They can be challenging to attend due to the cost of the school, the low number of students accepted, or status as a private college or university.
- 40. Private College/Private University:** A college or university that offers a variety of degrees for students to choose from. Private colleges and universities tend to cost more than public colleges and universities, but they often offer many private scholarships.
- 41. Public College/Public University:** A college or university that offers a variety of degrees. Public colleges and universities are typically more affordable than private options.
- 42. Regional University:** Smaller campus size and tend to be more affordable than research universities; however, there are typically fewer degree options to choose from.

- 43. Research University:** College campus that offers a variety of degrees, is typically more affordable than private options, and focuses on research in a variety of subject areas.
- 44. Resume:** An overview of a person's education, qualifications, and previous experience that is sent with a job application.
- 45. Salary:** An annual (yearly) amount of money that an employee makes.
- 46. Scholarship:** A sum of money that is used to support a student's education, usually awarded for academic achievement. It can also be earned in other forms, such as athletics.
- 47. Study Skills:** Are strategies that a student uses to learn new information, remember the new information, and practice using what they are learning.
- 48. Technology Center:** This type of school focuses on specialized career training.
- 49. University:** A higher education institution that offers a 4-year degree, as well as postgraduate degrees (Master's, PhD, etc.).
- 50. Volunteer:** A person who willingly helps with a service without being forced or paid to do it.