

University Terms and Definitions

Degree: A completed program of study at the university level.

Bachelor's degree/Undergraduate degree: Terms often used interchangeably. It is the first level of university studies and generally takes 3-4 years to complete. You are an undergraduate student until you have graduated from university.

Diploma: A certificate awarded by an educational establishment to show that someone has successfully completed a course of study.

Program: A group of courses leading towards a degree, some courses are compulsory (core credits) while others are electives.

Course/Credits: A unit of academic study; either one term or two terms in length. Courses are given names, numbers, and credit values. Courses, which last a year (two semesters), are worth 6 credits while those that last one semester are worth 3 credits. Students generally take 4-5 courses per semester (12-15 credits).

Electives: Other courses you can take outside of your chosen program option, to make up the 90 credits needed to complete your Bachelor's Degree.

Program Options/Concentration: How you choose to concentrate your credits within your degree (varies depending on the university).

- **Major:** Approximately 42-48 core credits for a 90-credit Bachelor's degree.
- **Specialization:** A more intensive study of your chosen program. Approximately 60 core credits of 90-credit Bachelor's degree.
- **Honours:** Approximately 60 or more credits for a 90-credit Bachelor's degree. Highly concentrated, and primarily for those planning to pursue graduate studies (Master's/Doctorate). Generally, students apply for Honours after completing a year of studies or a certain number of credits. A certain GPA is required to apply and will be indicated by the program.

- **Minor:** If you wish, you can decide to pursue a secondary area of concentration, usually 24-30 credits. A minor is optional and must be combined with a Major. For example: Major in English and a Minor in History, or Major in Biology and Minor in Chemistry.

Faculty: A division within a university, which consists of departments.

For example:

Faculty	Departments
Arts	English, History, Psychology, etc.
Science	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.
Engineering	Mechanical, Civil, Software, etc.
Business	Management, Finance, accounting, etc.
Fine Arts	Film production, Design, Art history, etc.

Co-operative Education (Co-op): Paid program-relevant work experience that alternates with academic terms. Students alternate study terms with terms working in the industry, gaining on-the-job experience and training.

Graduate Degree/Studies: May be pursued after graduating from a Bachelor's degree program (Master's, Doctorate). Required for certain occupations.

***NOTE-** The terms above refer to Quebec Universities, and may vary slightly in other provinces. Please always check the glossary on the university's website for clarification of the definition if unsure.

