USING THIS BULLETIN

Definitions and Abbreviations

Described below are definitions referring to degrees, majors, options, minors, concurrent or sequential majors programs, and integrated undergraduate-graduate degree programs:

Associate Degree

Two-year majors that, with few exceptions, provide concentrated instruction to prepare graduates for specialized occupational assignments.

Baccalaureate Degree

Penn State offers more than 160 majors with four-year baccalaureate degrees. A baccalaureate program of study shall consist of no less than 120 credits. Students may elect to take courses beyond the minimum requirements of a degree program. Particular types of baccalaureate degrees identify educational programs having common objectives and requirements. Degree programs may provide academic, pre-professional, or professional experiences and preparation. Majors lead to a baccalaureate degree. Each student must select a major within a baccalaureate degree type. If options are offered within a major, a student selects one. The student may also elect to enroll in a minor to supplement the major. Alternatively, the student may seek to enroll in multiple majors within the same type of baccalaureate degree or to enroll in a simultaneous degree program.

Undergraduate majors offered at Penn State lead to one or more of the following baccalaureate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Architectural Engineering (five-year program), Bachelor of Architecture (five-year program), Bachelor of Design, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Humanities, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (five-year program), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Musical Arts, and Bachelor of Philosophy.

Not all degrees are offered at every location. Baccalaureate degrees offered at Penn State include both those that are designed to provide an academic (including pre-professional) experience and those that are specifically designed to provide professional preparation.

To ensure excellence, all professionally oriented degree majors provide a strong academic base. The Bachelor of Arts degree (with a given major) is an academic degree; the Bachelor of Science degree (with a given major) and the bachelor's degree in any subject area (e.g., Bachelor of Architecture) are professional degrees. The Bachelor of Philosophy degree, described in the Intercollege Undergraduate Programs section of this Bulletin, is planned individually and may be designed to serve either academic or professional purposes.

Major

A major is a plan of study in a field of concentration within a type of baccalaureate degree. Colleges and other degree-granting units may have common requirements for all of their majors. Each major may have requirements identified in prescribed, additional, and supporting courses and related areas categories. Elective credits are not considered part of the major.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MAJORS (https://senate.psu.edu/curriculum/guide-to-curricular-procedures/baccalaureate-degree-curriculum/)

Option

An option is a specialization within a major that should involve at least one-third of the course work credits required for the major, but need not be more than 18 credits. All options within a major must have in common at least one-fourth of the required course work credits in the major. A student can only be enrolled in an option within their own major.

Minor

A minor is defined as an academic program of at least 18 credits that supplements a major. A minor program may consist of course work in a single area or from several disciplines, with at least 6 but ordinarily not more than half of the credits at the 400-course level. Total requirements are to be specified and generally limited to 18 to 21 credits. Entrance to some minors may require the completion of a number of prerequisites, including courses, portfolios, auditions, or other forms of documentation that are not included in the total requirements for the minor. All courses for a minor require a grade of C or above.

Concurrent and Sequential Majors Programs

At the baccalaureate or associate degree level, students may be approved for admission to more than one major under the Concurrent Majors Program. A Concurrent Majors Program is one in which students take courses to concurrently meet the requirements of at least two majors, with graduation for all majors in the program occurring during the same semester. Concurrent majors must all be at the baccalaureate or associate degree level. Under the Sequential Majors Program, upon graduation from an associate or baccalaureate degree program, a student may apply for re-enrollment in another undergraduate degree program.

Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) Degree Program

An Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate (IUG) degree program combines a Penn State baccalaureate degree with a master's degree as a continuous program of study. An IUG program allows qualifying students to:/p>

- create a cohesive plan for baccalaureate and master's degree studies, with advising informed by requirements for both degree programs;
- complete the combined degree program in less time than it would take to complete each program separately;
- become familiar with the expectations of graduate studies in their programs;
- access the resources of the Graduate School;
- learn from current graduate students who share academic interests.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Codes

Described below are common codes, abbreviations, acronyms, and other types of academic shorthand used at Penn State, along with a brief explanation of each.

Code	Explanation
A	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C)
A & A	Arts and Architecture (college abbreviation)
AA	Arts and Architecture (college code)
AAPPM	Academic Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual
AB	Abington (campus code)

AB	Abington (college code)		COMM	Communications (college abbreviation)
ACUE	Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education		CORD	Course is coordinated with other course(s) (course characteristic)
AG	Agricultural Sciences (college code)		COST	Course requires an additional fee (course characteristic)
AL	Altoona (campus code)		D	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297D, HIST 297E)
AL	Altoona (college code)			
AP	Advanced Placement Program			
APPL	Course requires an application with the School of Music (course characteristic)			
			DAA	Dean/Director of Academic Affairs
			DF	Deferred grade (grade reporting symbol)
APPT	By appointment (class meeting time)		DN	Dickinson School of Law (campus code)
AU	Audit, attended regularly (grade reporting symbol)			
			DS	DuBois (campus code)
AUDN	Course requires an audition (course characteristic)		DU	Division of Undergraduate Studies (college code)
AUU	Audit, did not attend regularly (grade reporting symbol)		D U S	Division of Undergraduate Studies (college abbreviation)
B	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C)		E	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297D, HIST 297E)
BA	Business, Smeal College of (college code)		ECoS	Eberly College of Science
			ED	Education (college code)
BC	Behrend (college code)		EM	Earth and Mineral Sciences (college code)
BK	Berks (campus code)			
BK	Berks (college code)		EM SC	Earth and Mineral Sciences (college abbreviation)
BR	Beaver (campus code)			
BW	Brandywine (campus code)		EN	Engineering (college code)
C	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., CAS 100A, CAS 100B, CAS 100C)		ENGR	Engineering (college abbreviation)
			EOP	Educational Opportunity Program
			EPR	Early Progress Report
CA	Capital (college code)		EPS	Educational Planning Survey
CALC	Course requires a calculator (course characteristic)		ER	Behrend (campus code)
			ESL	English as a Second Language
CAMP	College Assistance Migrant Program		EVEX	Course has evening exams (course characteristic)
CAT	Online catalog, University Libraries		F	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297F, HIST 297G)
CC	Commonwealth Campuses			
CCP	College Contact Person			
CCRR	College Contact and Referral Representative			
CCSG	Council of Commonwealth Student Governments		FE	Fayette (campus code)
			FINL	Course has a final exam (course characteristic)
CE	Continuing Education			
CGPA	Cumulative grade-point average		FL	Failure under pass/fail option (grade reporting symbol)
CIC	Committee on Institutional Cooperation			
			FYS	First-Year Seminar
CLEP	College-Level Examination Program		G	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297F, HIST 297G)
CM	Communications (college code)			
CNCR	Course is scheduled concurrently with another course (course characteristic)			
			GA	Arts (General Education code)
			GA	Greater Allegheny (campus code)
CNTL	Course is controlled (course characteristic)			

GH	Humanities (General Education code)
GHW	Health and Wellness (General Education code)
GN	Graduate non-degree (college code)
GN	Natural Sciences (General Education code)
GPA	Grade-point average
GQ	Quantification (General Education code)
GR	Graduate (level code)
GR ND	Graduate non-degree (college code)
GS	Social and Behavioral Sciences (General Education code)
GV	Great Valley (campus code)
GV	Great Valley (college code)
GWS	Writing/Speaking (General Education code)
H	Honors course or section (course suffix)
HB	Harrisburg (campus code)
H H D	Health and Human Development (college abbreviation)
HH	Health and Human Development (college code)
HN	Hazleton (campus code)
HY	Hershey Medical Center (campus code)
I	Incomplete (grade reporting symbol)
I	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297I, HIST 297K)
I COL	Intercollege programs (college abbreviation)
IB	International Baccalaureate Program
IC	Intercollege programs (college code)
IL	International Cultures (General Education code)
INCP	Incomplete (grade reporting symbol)
INTG	Course is integrated with other courses (course characteristic)
IS	Information Sciences and Technology (college code)
IST	Information Sciences and Technology (college abbreviation)
ITS	Information Technology Services
IUG	Integrated undergraduate/graduate degree programs
IVID	Course uses interactive video (course characteristic)
J	Individualized instruction (course suffix)
K	Special topics (course suffix; indicates different versions of the same course, e.g., HIST 297I, HIST 297K)
L	Lecture section (course suffix)
LA	Liberal Arts (college code)
LEAP	Learning Edge Academic Program
LIAB	Course has liability attendance policy (course characteristic)
LV	Lehigh Valley (campus code)
LW	Law (level code)
M	Writing Across the Curriculum and Honors (course suffix)
MA	Mont Alto (campus code)
MAC	Morgan Academic Center (for Student-Athletes)
MD	Medical (level code)
MD	Medicine (college code)
MED	Medicine (college abbreviation)
MEP	Multicultural Engineering Program
MRC	Multicultural Resource Center
MS	Military Science (ROTC) (college code)
NACADA	National Academic Advising Association
NC	Non-credit (level code)
NDEGR/C/H	Nondegree Regular/Conditional/High School (Classification of Undergraduate Students)
NG	No grade (grade reporting symbol)
NK	New Kensington (campus code)
NR	Nursing (college code)
NSO	New Student Orientation
OCLC	Course meets at an off-campus location (course characteristic)
ODS	Office for Disability Services
OSA	Office of Student Aid
OUR	Office of the University Registrar
P	Pass (noncredit course) (grade reporting symbol)
P	Practicum (or laboratory) section (course suffix)
PC	Penn College (Pennsylvania College of Technology; campus code)
PREQ	Course has prerequisites (course characteristic)
PS	Pass (pass/fail option) (grade reporting symbol)
PSU	Pennsylvania State University
R	Recitation section (course suffix)
R	Research (grade reporting symbol)
RAP	Recommended Academic Plan
RI	Resident Instruction

ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
S	First-Year Seminar (course suffix)
SA	Satisfactory achievement (grade reporting symbol)
SATL	Course is offered at multiple locations via satellite uplink (course characteristic)
SC	Science, Eberly College of (college code)
SCIEN	Science, Eberly College of (college abbreviation)
SEGM	Course is segmented (course characteristic)
SGPA	Semester grade-point average
SH	Shenango (campus code)
SI	Supplemental Instruction
SITE	Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence
SL	Schuylkill (campus code)
SLO	Special Living Options
SOTP	Student Orientation and Transition Programs
SRTE	Student Ratings of Teacher Effectiveness
SSSP	Student Support Services Program
T	First-Year Seminar and Honors (course suffix)
TMDT	Course has additional meeting times/dates (course characteristic)
U	United States Cultures/International Cultures and Honors (course suffix)
UAO	Undergraduate Admissions Office
UC	University College (college code)
UE	Undergraduate Education
UFO	University Fellowships Office
UG	Undergraduate (level code)
UG ND	Undergraduate non-degree (college code)
UN	Undergraduate nondegree (college code)
UN	Unsatisfactory achievement (grade reporting symbol)
UP	University Park (campus code)
UPUA	University Park Undergraduate Association
US	United States Cultures (General Education code)
W	Official withdrawal (grade reporting symbol)
W	Writing Across the Curriculum (course suffix)
WB	Wilkes-Barre (campus code)
WC	World Campus
WEB	Web course; offered entirely through the Internet (course characteristic)
WEP	Women in Engineering Program
WF	Withdrew failing (grade reporting symbol)
WISE	Women in the Sciences and Engineering
WN	Withdrew no grade (grade reporting symbol)
WP	Withdrew passing (grade reporting symbol)
WS	Worthington Scranton (campus code)
X	Writing Across the Curriculum and First-Year Seminar (course suffix)
XC	State College Continuing Education (campus code)
XF	Failure, academic dishonesty (course grade)
XS	Foreign studies program (campus code)
Y	Writing Across the Curriculum course and United States Cultures/International Cultures (course suffix)
YK	York (campus code)

Common abbreviations for course attributes and suffixes can be found in the University Course Descriptions (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/) section.