

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

for understanding the UNC Curriculum, Graduation Requirements, and Course Registration

Begin your academic journey by familiarizing yourself with the following terms:

- **Add (courses)** — You may continue to add courses to your schedule through August 24. First-year students who attended a June or July orientation may access the registration system at 11:00AM on Thursday, August 6 to make schedule changes.
- **Approaches** — Part of the UNC general education curriculum that introduces the methods and findings of widely accepted approaches to intellectual inquiry. It is made up of Physical and Life Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities and Fine Arts.
- **BE – By-Exam** — Credit that you earn as a result of earning a minimum score on an exam, e.g., AP or IB.
- **Class Standing** — You are considered a first-year student for your first and second semesters if you begin your undergraduate career at UNC-CH. Thereafter, your classification is determined by the cumulative number of credit hours earned: 1-29 = first-year; 30-59 = sophomore; 60-89 = junior; and 90+ = senior.
- **Connections** — Themes that run through the content of academic knowledge that may be approached by different modes of inquiry; these general education requirements can overlap with approaches, supplemental education requirements, and major and/or minor requirements.
- **Credit Hour** — A unit for measuring progress toward graduation, loosely based on the number of hours per week a class meets. You will need to earn a minimum of 120 hours in order to graduate.
- **Cross-listed** — A single course offered collaboratively through two or more departments or programs. For example: AMST/HIST 110.
- **Drop (courses)** — You may drop a course online through your Student Center on ConnectCarolina through the first 10 days of classes, including ENGL 105 and your foreign language. Dropping a course within the first 10 days does not reflect on your transcript. *Note: It is important to enroll in 15–17 credit hours so you may have a drop option.*
- **Electives** — Courses you choose according to interest rather than to meet a specific general education requirement. Generally, you will need elective credit hours to reach your minimum of 120 hours required for graduation.
- **Eligibility** — At the end of each term, you earn an academic status that determines your eligibility to continue enrollment in a subsequent fall or spring semester. To remain in good academic standing, you must maintain a cumulative UNC-CH grade-point average (GPA) of at least 2.0, pass two-thirds of cumulative attempted hours, and satisfy the minimum number of cumulative passed credit hours based on the number of semesters completed.
- **Foundations** — the part of the UNC general education curriculum which develops the essential skills of critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and effective oral and written communication. It is made up of English, Foreign Language, Quantitative Reasoning, and Lifetime Fitness.
- **Hold (aka registration hold)** — Appears on the right-hand side of your Student Center. Be sure to check this often to make sure you do not have any holds that might prevent you from registering for the upcoming semester or prevent you from making changes to the current one. Clicking on the description will tell you if you need to take action to have the hold removed.
- **Math Placement/Math 110 Placement** — You must demonstrate proficiency in college-level algebra before enrolling in certain quantitative (science/math/statistic) courses. This prerequisite is known as MATH 110 PL (placement). MATH 110 does not fulfill the Quantitative Reasoning requirement or any other general education requirement. MATH 110 PL is obtained by earning a specific minimum score on national standardized math tests.
- **Overlap** — When a student has a minor or double major, there is potential for some courses to count in both the first major and the minor or second major. More than half of the courses for each major or minor must be exclusive to that major or minor.
- **Prerequisite** — A course which you must complete in order to take a more advanced course. *Note: The registration system may not prevent you from registering for a course with a prerequisite. It is your responsibility to check the Undergraduate Bulletin to determine if a course has a prerequisite.*

- **Probation** — If you fall short of the eligibility standards, you will be placed on academic probation for one semester if you pass at least nine academic credit hours in the most recently enrolled fall or spring semester and were not already on probation in the previous semester.
- **Recitation** — A required small discussion section taken to supplement a large lecture, most often taught by a graduate teaching assistant, or TA.
- **Section** — A specific offering of a particular course, at a particular time and location, by a particular instructor, during a specific academic term. For example, there are over 100 sections of ENGL 105 offered this fall.
- **Semester course load** — To maintain full-time status, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 academic credit hours. You may enroll in up to 18 credit hours each semester. Note that you must average 15 credit hours per semester in order to graduate in eight semesters.
- **Student Center (ConnectCarolina)** — Located on the web at connectcarolina.unc.edu, a secure portal where you register for classes, look up grades, pay cashier bills, and much more.
- **Tar Heel Tracker** — Located in your Student Center, an online degree audit report that shows your progress toward degree by highlighting Gen-eds and major/minor requirements fulfilled.
- **Terms in Residence** — The number of semesters you have completed in order to determine how many semesters you have left of your total eight semesters in which to complete your degree. For transfer students, the number of semesters (terms in residence) awarded as transferred is calculated based on the number of transfer credit hours awarded by UNC-CH and not the number of semesters in which you were enrolled at other colleges.
- **Undergraduate Bulletin** — A comprehensive official record of academic policies and procedures, course descriptions, major and minor requirements, and academic department information.
- **Waitlist** — A virtual waiting line that you have the option of using if a course section is full. Note that not all courses have a waitlist option.
- **Withdraw (from courses)** — After the drop deadline, you may withdraw from a course through the eighth week of the semester as long as you remain enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. It will reflect a W on your transcript, and all first-year students and sophomore transfer students have 16 credit hours of W to use during their eight semesters. *Note: You may not drop ENGL 105 or your foreign language course without special permission from a Dean.*