

Your Guide to College Lingo



ACADEMIC PROBATION: students whose cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0.

ACADEMIC SUSPENSION: students on academic probation who do not achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 must sit out a semester; earn a 2.0 semester GPA to remain on probation.

ADD/DROP PERIOD: period of time at the beginning of each semester when students can add or drop courses without financial or academic repercussions.

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR: part-time instructor.

ADVISOR: faculty/staff member who assists students with course selection and academic decision making appropriate to their personal, professional, and academic needs and goals.

ALMA MATER: refers to one's college or university from which they graduated.

ALUMNI: plural form for a graduate of UMaine.

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE: typically requires 60-65 credit hours; usually from a community college, typically obtained in 2 years.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE: awarded after the completion of the requirements of a specific program; typically, four years of study and 120 credits.

BANANAS THE BEAR: UMaine's Athletics Mascot.

BRIGHTSPACE: online access to classes, assignments, and support; where you submit assignments, and can see your grades.

BURSAR: manages student financial accounts, assesses tuition and fees, provides monthly billing statements, and processes payments and refunds.

CLOSED CLASS: the limit on the number of students allowed in a specific section/course has been reached.

COLLEGE: contains administration and several academic departments; example – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

COMMENCEMENT: yearly graduation ceremony.

COMMUNITY ADVISORS: students who live in their own apartment on campus, work for residence life, and support a specific student residence hall.

CONVOCATION: welcome assembly for all first-year students that begins before the fall semester where faculty, staff, and administration offer motivational speeches.

COURSE CREDIT: a measure of the size of an educational course, determined in credit hours.

CREDIT HOUR: amount of instructional and learning time per week during a regular 15-week course; ex. - a course that meets 3 hours a week for 15 weeks would be assigned 3 credit hours.

COURSE NUMBER: identifies the course with an abbreviation of the department and a number.

COURSE SYLLABUS: your guide to a course and what will be expected of you over the course of the semester. Generally it will include course policies, rules, required texts, grading policies and a schedule of assignments.

DEAN: academic head of each college or school.

DEAN OF STUDENTS: oversees the non-academic areas and responsible for building a supportive campus community.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS/DIRECTORS: full-time professors who have administrative duties supporting their programs in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

EDUROAM: preferred campus Wi-Fi.

FAFSA: (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): required for students to obtain financial aid; must be filled out each year.

FERPA: (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) federal laws that protect the privacy of students' education records from being accessed by anyone without permission, including parents.

FINALS: last week of each semester, in which many courses have a final test, exam, paper, or project.

FINANCIAL AID:

-Federal Loans: loans awarded by the federal government, must be paid back.

-Grants: financial aid awarded by the federal government; does not have to be paid back.

-Scholarship: financial assistance awarded based on academic or other criteria, does not have to be paid back.

FULL-TIME STUDENT: undergraduate enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours per fall or spring semester, or 6 hours during the summer semester.

GA: graduate assistant: a graduate student that works for the university part time assisting a department, faculty, in research or other needed help, in exchange for reduced tuition, a stipend, and other benefits.

GENERAL EDUCATION: often referred to as “gen ed;” courses every student is required to take, regardless of major.

GPA: grade point average: cumulative grade point average computed by dividing grade points by class hours attended.

-Cumulative: overall Grade Point Average.

-Resident: Grade Point Average of courses taken at UMaine.

GREEK: a term applied to members affiliated with social Greek- letter organizations, called fraternities and sororities.

HOMECOMING: UMaine’s largest, and most activity filled event to welcome students back to campus. A three-day gathering featuring class reunions, tailgating, campus tours, concerts, lectures, presentations, football, ice hockey, soccer & field hockey games.

KNACK: UMaine’s peer tutoring that is free to students.

MAINE BOUND: UMaine’s Adventure Center; boasting climbing and bouldering walls, Maine Bound is committed to comprehensive outdoor experiences for students and community members alike, including gear rentals, events, clinics, adventure trips year-round, and much more.

MAINE DAYS: last week in April, faculty and students come together to focus on beautification and giving back to campus.

MAINE HELLO: upperclassmen, faculty, and staff volunteer to welcome new students and their families to campus.

MAINE MASQUE: student-run group centered around theatrical performance where students from all majors are welcome to participate.

MYCAMPUS: (The Portal): website with links to all things UMaine, including where to enroll for classes, check financials, the Fogler Library, Brightspace, etc.

NAVIGATE360: app that sends notifications for deadlines and events, you can keep track of your schedule, appointments with advisors, get directions, and ask for and receive help.

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT: undergraduates who are 24 years or older, married, are parents themselves and/or have been through life circumstances that differentiate them from the traditional path.

OFFICE HOURS: a welcoming opportunity for one-on-one assistance from professors who are eager to help you succeed.

PART-TIME STUDENT: undergraduate enrolled in fewer than 12 credit hours in a fall or spring semester, or fewer than 6 hours in summer.

PATHWAYS TO CAREER: supports students finding and preparing for high-impact internships and other career-relevant experiential learning opportunities.

PLAGIARISM: using another’s work, whether directly quoted or summarized, without giving credit to the author; results in serious consequences.

PREREQUISITE: sometimes referred to as a “pre-req;” course that must be taken prior to enrolling in an advanced course.

PULSE APP: app that connects to brightspace and helps you keep up with your coursework.

RA: students who live in the residence hall, works for residence life, and support the students within their hall.

REGISTRAR: (OSR – Office of Student Records) Place where officially maintained academic records for all students are kept.

RLE: (Research Learning Experience) each RLE is an immersive experience in a specific field the week before classes. Students then participate in a small, hands-on course, to get to know the instructor, and ask their own questions.

SCHOOL: contains administration and offers degree pathways across more than one field; ex. – the Maine Business School.

SCHOOL COLORS: UMaine’s school colors are white, light blue, and dark blue.

SEMESTER: portion of the academic year that you complete a class and receive a final grade towards your degree/GPA.

-Fall: 15-week semester - August through December.

-Winter: intersession courses held between Fall and Spring semesters. Will count as a spring class.

-Spring: 15-week semester - January through May.

-Summer: June through August; one traditional 15-week session, and several intersession options.

STEIN SONG: UMaine’s Alma Mater, or university song.

STUDENT SUCCESS HUB: all the resources you need to thrive as a Black Bear at UMaine; academic advising to campus dining, tutoring, and campus involvement.

THE MAINE CAMPUS: the official student newspaper of the University of Maine, one of the oldest newspapers in Maine.

THE MEMORIAL UNION: The Union; gathering place for the campus community; home to programs, facilities, the bookstore, food venues, lounges and more.

UMAA: UMaine Alumni Association; dedicated to advancing the interests of UMaine’s former, current, and future students.

UMSG INC: UMaine Student Government; a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation built with the intention of improving student life on campus.



USER ID: usually your first and last name (first.last@maine.edu) your sign-on to access all UMaine web applications for taking care of university business, such as registering for classes, checking grades, and viewing other student-oriented information.

WAITLIST: when all seats in a class are full, some classes allow you to be put on waitlist until others drop the class.

WELCOME WEEK: a weeklong series of social, recreational, cultural, and artist programs during the first week of the fall semester.

WITHDRAW: after the add/drop period; student receives a “W” or “F” on transcript; “W”’s have no effect on GPA.

WORK STUDY: eligibility determined by FAFSA results; student is employed on campus.