

Learning to Speak College-ese

Getting Started

- **Application:** Form to be completed for admission.
- **Catalog:** Contains degree requirements for all programs of study, rules that affect students, descriptions of courses, and a list of the faculty and administration of the college.
- **Educational Plan:** Semester by semester outline of suggested classes to take based on your major, transfer plans and sequence of courses.
- **Full time student:** A student carrying a load of 12 units. (minimum of 15 units of degree applicable coursework needed to graduate in 2 years for AA/AS and 4 years for BA/BS).
- **General Education:** Coursework in a variety of areas that provide a foundation of skills and knowledge. Requirements depend on degree and/or transfer institution.
- **Major:** An area of concentration in a particular field of study.
- **Orientation:** Way for students to become familiar with campus services, policies and procedures.
- **Priority Registration:** The order in which registration appointments are assigned to groups of students.
- **Schedule of Classes:** List that shows dates, time, instructor, and location of course offerings each semester.
- **Unit:** The number of hours per week that courses meet.

Degree/Certificate Options

- **Employment Concentration Certificate:** Locally awarded certificates that take 18 units or less to complete. Can be used as a stepping-stone towards earning a certification or associate's degree.
- **Certificate:** Focused on a specific vocational subject area and are designed to provide students with knowledge and skills immediately applicable to employment. Certificate programs typically do not require general education requirements.
- **Non-transfer Associates Degree:** Requires at least 60 units or approximately 20 classes. Majority of courses required relate to the major. Classes in general education and electives also required. This degree prepares students to enter the workforce after completion.
- **Transfer Associate Degree:** Requires at least 60 units, approximately 20 classes. Coursework focused on general education and preparation for major at the university. This degree prepares students for further education.
- **Bachelor's Degree:** Undergraduate degree awarded by four-year colleges and universities. Majority of coursework taken during first two years are general education.

Financial Aid

- **Dream Act Application:** Completed by undocumented students who meet AB 540 eligibility requirements. Used to see if eligible for state sponsored financial aid.
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** Form filled out by students to see if eligible for government sponsored financial aid.
- **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** The standards you must adhere to in order to be eligible to receive financial aid.