Common Terms on Campus Tip Sheet

The University of Calgary uses several different terms and acronyms that may be unfamiliar to new students. Review the following list to enhance your understanding of some common terms used at the University of Calgary.

Program-related

- **Major**: The primary area of specialization in an undergraduate degree program. You may also choose to do two majors in the same degree, which is called a double major.
- **Minor**: A secondary area of study outside the Major area.
- **Co-op/Internship**: A program where you alternate between work and academic terms.
- **Open Option**: A course that allows you to explore an additional area of interest outside your chosen major or degree.
- **Change of Program**: You may elect to pursue a different program within your faculty or enter a new program in a different faculty.

Course type and delivery

- **Units**: Units, also called ‘credits’, are a measurement system used to indicate the value of a course. Most courses are worth 3 units and are called half-course equivalents. Some courses are worth 6 units and are called full-course equivalents. Most programs require 120 units for completion.
- **Course delivery**: Course components can be synchronous (participate at scheduled times), asynchronous (participate whenever convenient), or hybrid (mix of both). They can also be in-person or web-based.
- **Lectures**: Lectures are the main instructional component of a course where instructors introduce and work through the topics of the course.
- **Labs**: Secondary instructional component of a course where you can apply learning from lectures. The class size of lab sections is often smaller than the lecture.
- **Tutorials**: Secondary instructional component of a course where you can ask questions, discuss course and reading material, and receive additional assistance. They may or may not be mandatory.

Course registration

- **Add/Drop deadline**: The add/drop deadlines indicate the date by which courses can be added or dropped without incurring any penalties. The deadlines are available through the UCalgary Academic Calendar.
• **Tuition**: The required fees for a course are based on the number of units associated with the course. Fees are assessed when you register in a course(s). Due dates for tuition fees are available through the UCalgary Academic Calendar.

• **Enrolment start time**: The date and time when you can begin enrolling in courses. You can find your enrolment start time in your Student Centre.

• **Withdrawal**: After the term drop deadline passes, you can use the drop function to withdraw from a class up until the last day of classes. You will have the withdrawal recorded on your transcript and will not receive a fee refund.

• **Wait list**: If a course is full, you may be able to join a wait list and wait for a seat to open in the course (if this functionality is enabled by the faculty). If a student drops the class, a seat will open and be automatically filled by the next student on the wait list.

• **Pre-requisite**: This is a course that you must complete before you can enrol in the next level course. Most prerequisites require you to achieve a passing grade.

• **Anti-requisite**: Two courses that cannot both be taken for credit because the content that is covered is too similar to one another.

• **Deferral of term work**: A temporary extension of time granted at the discretion of the faculty offering the course to complete course requirements.

• **Deferral of examinations**: Examinations scheduled by the Registrar for students who are unable to write regularly scheduled final examinations.

• **Block Week**: Block weeks are scheduled for 5 days at the start of Fall and Winter terms. Many credit courses are offered on block weeks and have an intensive structure.

### Grades

• **GPA**: Each course grade is assigned a Grade Point Value. Grade Point Average (GPA) is the average of the grade point values earned by a student over all the courses taken.

• **Grading curve**: A practice designed to scale the test scores to match a specific distribution for grades. There is no official policy regarding grading curves at UCalgary.

• **Transcript**: A transcript is a record of a student’s academic history that includes a student’s program, faculty, courses taken, grades received, and degrees awarded.

• **Credit Granted**: A new grading option. When CG is applied, your grade will show up as CG on your transcript instead of a letter grade. In most cases, a maximum of 9 units may be taken for CG over an entire undergraduate program.

• **Academic Standing**: The academic standing of students in a faculty will be reviewed after each Winter term provided that they have completed at least 18 units. If they have a minimum GPA of 2.0, they are considered in good academic standing. If the GPA is of at least 1.7 but less than 2.0, they are placed on academic probation. If the GPA is less than 1.7, they will be invited to join the Academic Turnaround Program or will be required to withdraw from the faculty.