



Helpful Terminology for First Time Students

On-Campus Resources

- **Bear Central:** Located on the second floor of the Campus Commons. It houses the offices of the Registrar, Financial Aid and Bursar.
- **Bursar:** The major responsibilities of the Bursar's Office are financial activities relating to accounts receivable, loans receivable and cashiering functions. They also work with collection of student charges, loans, and billing.
- **Campus Commons (Commons):** The newest building on campus. It houses the offices of Admissions, New Student Orientation, Bear Central and Ticketing (for events). It has a 600 seat performance hall and an art gallery.
- **Center for Career Readiness:** This administrative office is a resource to assist students in deciding majors and careers, update resumes and cover letters, discover job and internship searching techniques, develop interviewing skills, and discover career paths.
- **Campus Recreation Center (Rec Center):** Provides facilities and services for fitness, wellness, sports clubs, intramural sports, physical therapy, group fitness classes, and recreation.
- **Dean of Students:** The purpose of the Dean of Students Office is to enhance and recognize student learning and personal responsibility. The focus is to resolve student issues which may include consultation with faculty and staff; serve as an information and referral center for the campus community; coordinate student recognition and awards programs for academic and leadership achievement; and hold students accountable who have exhibited conduct incompatible with the academic mission of the University.
- **Financial Aid:** The Office of Financial Aid connects students and their families to financial solutions such as grants, scholarships, student employment, and loans.
- **Residence Halls (also known as Dorms):** On campus student housing that is coordinated by the Department of Housing and Residential Education.
- **Resident Assistant (RA):** Upper-class student staff members living in residence halls who build community; provide educational and social opportunities for students; and enforce policies, safety protocols, and security procedures in the residence halls.
- **Teaching Assistant (TA):** Usually a graduate student who assists a professor in classes and laboratories.
- **University Center (UC):** The center point of the university, the UC sits at the highest geographical point in Greeley. The UC is a common place for students to congregate. It is a place to study, socialize, eat meals, and purchase official UNC gear.

Academic Terminology

- **Academic Probation:** Students can be placed on academic probation when their cumulative GPA falls under a 2.0. After falling below a 2.0 GPA, students have a 24 credit hour window to restore their GPA to above 2.0. If a student does not raise their GPA above a 2.0 in the window or they fall below at 1.0 at any time, they will be suspended from the University.
- **College:** Within the *University* of Northern Colorado, there are six *colleges* which contain the different majors in the university. The colleges are University College, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Natural and Health Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Monfort College of Business, and College of Performing and Visual Arts.

- **Dean's List:** Students at the University who have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours and have achieved a 3.75 or above grade point average for any two semesters of the year (including Summer) are named to the Dean's List of Academic Distinction and awarded a certificate acknowledging their outstanding scholarship.
- **Grade Point Average (GPA):** In any given class, A's are worth 4 points, B's are worth 3, C's are worth 2, and D's are worth 1 point. These values are known as grade points. GPAs are calculated by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of credit hours attempted. There are two different GPA's: the semester/term GPA and the cumulative (all semesters combined) GPA. The cumulative GPA is what shows in Degree Works.
- **Honor Roll:** Students at the University who have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours and have achieved a 3.50 to 3.74 grade point average for any two semesters of the year (including Summer) are awarded a certificate acknowledging their outstanding scholarship.
- **Math Study Center:** The Math Study Center (sometimes referred to as the Math Lab) provides free drop-in homework help for all Math courses. Help is provided by the Mathematical Sciences faculty and graduate students (and sometimes even the NHS Dean!).
- **Tutorial Services:** Tutorial Services employs 40-45 peer tutors who provide free academic and study skills support. Individual and small group tutoring is available in about 130 undergraduate courses.
- **Transcript:** An official record of a student's classes, grades, and quality points earned.
- **Writing Center:** The Writing Center is a free assistance in writing from first year essays to doctorate level dissertations, support for different writing and formatting styles, and additional help for those writing in English as a second language.

Course Terms

- **Add/Drop Deadline:** Adding a class before the add deadline (the first Friday of classes is the *Add Deadline*) allows for the addition of that course to the student's transcript and may result in an adjustment of tuition and fees. Dropping a class before the drop deadline (the second Friday of classes is the *Drop Deadline*) allows for the removal of that course from the student's transcript without impacting the student's GPA and may result in an adjustment of tuition and fees.
- **Catalog:** Found on the UNC Website, the Catalog is a year-specific resource to find information on majors, minors, course descriptions, university policies, student code of conduct, and much more. The catalog is updated annually.
- **Co-requisite:** This is an academic course required to be taken in conjunction with another course.
- **Credit Hours:** Sometimes referred to as credits, hours, or credit hours. Credit hours are a number value assigned to a course and generally reflect the amount of time the class meets. For example, a three-credit hour class will meet approximately three hours a week.

- **Exploring:** Exploring students are not enrolled in a specific major and are encouraged to take a variety of classes to discover what they would be interested in majoring in. Students must declare a major before they have earned 30 university credits.
- **Finals:** Tests/exams administered the last week of the semester.
- **Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC):** Designed to create a better-rounded student, the Liberal Arts Curriculum requires students to take 31 credit hours of classes from a variety of subject areas.
- **Major:** A collection of classes in a particular area of study along with a number of supporting classes will result in a degree. Major requirements can be found in the Catalog.
- **Midterms:** Tests/exams given near the middle of the semester. Not all courses administer a midterm.
- **Minor:** A collection of classes in a particular area of study that supplement a student's major. Minors require varying amounts of credit hours to complete, typically ranging from 18-24 credit hours.
- **Pre-requisite:** A course requirement that must be completed before enrolling in another course.
- **Registrar:** The Registrar is someone who maintains a database of official records. This office deals with student records, transcripts, residency, graduation, registration, enrollment, and veteran certification. The Registrar enrolls all new entries into a database, reflecting information like academic standing and outstanding debts.
- **Withdrawal/Withdrawing from a Class:** Students can withdraw from courses until the withdrawal deadline. A "W" is recorded on the student's transcript and their GPA is not impacted. However, money paid towards the course will not be refunded.

UNC Lingo

- **Bear Mail:** Bear Mail is the official means of electronic communication with students at UNC. Important information such as course assignment changes, financial aid notifications and emergency messages are sent to students via Bear Mail. You can find a link to Bear Mail in URSA. Students are encouraged to add their Bear Mail account to the phone if possible.
- **Bear Number:** Given to students upon their acceptance to the University of Northern Colorado, this number is used as identification for on-campus activities. This is a nine-digit number.
- **Canvas:** A learning management system used to deliver instructional content, collaborate and communicate online, and track and assess student work.
- **PDID:** Given to students upon their acceptance to the University of Northern Colorado. The acronym stands for Personal Digital Identification and it is the first four letters of the student's last name paired with four randomly assigned numbers. For example, unco1234.
- **URSA:** URSA is the online student portal that will assist students with managing their registration, viewing their grades, ordering transcripts, viewing and paying their student bills, receiving notifications and messages about financial aid, completing forms, and more.