

Vocabulary used at the college level

The difference between a college and a university is that a college serves only undergraduate students, while universities serve both graduate and undergraduate students...

What is the difference between a graduate and an undergraduate student?

Check this list of vocabulary and think of the best word in Spanish used at your university. Try not to cheat! Don't look up any word on the dictionary. Just read the definitions and think of the best word(s) in your language.

add/drop

students who start taking a class and discover they don't like it or need a different class can "add" or "drop" them during the add/drop period. They may only be allowed to add a class during a certain period at the beginning of the term.

bachelor's degree

the name for the typical four-year college degree

chancellor

an administrator who is head of a university or large university system (such as a state university system)

core (distribution) requirements

many colleges have a list of the kinds of courses students have to take in order to graduate. They may include two classes in social science, two in humanities, two in science, etc. There are often a number of classes to choose from in order to satisfy these requirements.

course (or learning) management system (LMS)

this is the system students access on a computer to view information for their classes, such as the syllabus, and may have to upload their papers there (instead of handing a physical paper to the professor), post a response to a reading (and possibly respond to another student's post), etc.

culminating academic experience

in order graduate from some colleges, students may have to complete a large final project or take a test. Schools may dictate what this final experience is, or they may allow students to choose from one of these kinds of options:

- **capstone project** – in order to graduate from some colleges, students may have to complete a large final project related to an area of interest in order to graduate – this is outside of any classes they're taking
- **comprehensive exam** – this test may cover a wide range of topics from students' major or area of interest

- **portfolio/dossier** – a collection of completed works that show that students have achieved competence in different standards relevant to the profession they want to pursue (typically in fields like art or architecture)
- **thesis** – final long-term paper that some schools require students to complete in order to graduate – this is not part of a class and is usually focused on a topic from students' area of interest – students typically spend at least a year on this, and they may have to do their own research as part of the requirement

dean

an administrator at a college who may have responsibility for one department (or school, such as a school of architecture) or for the whole college.

degree

the name for the diploma students earn at college

enroll

term for when students who have been accepted by a college complete their paperwork and pay a deposit to indicate that they want to go to school there.

grade point average (GPA)

each grade students earn in a class is worth number of points. At many colleges, students have to be at or above a certain minimum GPA in order to stay enrolled at that school

graduate students

students who have already earned a bachelor's degree and are pursuing a further degree, either a master's degree or Ph.D.; graduate ("grad") students sometimes serve as teaching assistants (TAs) in college classes

major

the topic or area students will focus their classwork on (e.g., Economics) and in which they will earn their degree – students usually have to "declare" their major at the end of their sophomore year (they may have to submit a form for this)

master's degree

after they earn a bachelor's degree, some students will go on for another year or two in order to earn this advanced degree. Sometimes people earn a master's degree as part of the process of earning their Ph.D.

Ph.D.

stands for Doctor of Philosophy. This is the highest degree students can earn after college

provost

an administrator at a college who may have responsibility for several departments or the whole college (a college may have a provost instead of a dean, or both).

research institution

these schools tend to be larger, and faculty members have research responsibilities in addition to teaching responsibilities.

student affairs

may be the name of the office or a department concerned with non-academic parts of students' lives, like student activities on campus, health services, dining services, and others

syllabus (syllabi is the plural of syllabus)

for each class, students should receive (or be able to office download from the course management system) a sheet with the professor's contact information and office hours and a list of topics and assignments for each week of the term

transcript

document that lists all classes students have taken at college and their grades

tuition

the fee students pay to attend classes at a college. Students' tuition bill may also include other fees, such as a student activity fee. Included in the bill may be their "room" (the charge for whatever college-owned housing they live in, unless they live "off-campus" in a building the college doesn't own) and "board" (the fee for their "meal plan" to eat at dining halls or cafeterias on campus).

undergraduates

students who are in college to earn a bachelor's degree

withdrawal

after the add/drop period is over, students can still drop out of a class (so that they can stop attending and doing the work).