



# Your Cheat Sheet To College Lingo

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MISSISSIPPI

Center for Student Success and First-Year Experience

**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 aid 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; also the name of the school song

**ALUMNI:** plural form for a graduate of Ole Miss

**ASB:** Associated Student Body; student government

**ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE:** typically requires 60-65 hours of courses to complete; usually comes from a community college

**AUDIT:** taking a course for no credit

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** awarded after the completion of the requirements of a specific program; most are four years of study

**BID:** a formal invitation to join a Greek-letter organization

**BLACKBOARD (Bb):** a web-based course-management system. It provides a web portal environment, support for courses and campus. Your Bb username is the first part of your UM email address

**BLUE BOOK:** a small booklet of paper with a blue cover used for essay exams

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

**CHANCELLOR:** the chief administrative officer of the university and is equivalent to a university president

**CHAPTER:** a membership unit of a national or international fraternal organization

**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

**COMMENCEMENT:** graduation

**COMMUNITY ADVISORS (CAs):** students who work for student housing and are responsible for a specific group of student housing

**COMPREHENSIVE TEST:** test topics covered throughout the entire course/ semester

**CONDITIONALLY BOOKED:** student is temporarily booked and will be automatically added to the course if satisfaction of the pre-req is met.

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

**CREDIT HOUR:** typically referred to as an "hour"; the equivalent of one hour of class per week in a regular 16-week course/ semester

**DEAN:** academic head of each college or school

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRS:** full-time professors who have administrative duties in addition to their teaching responsibilities

**DM:** The Daily Mississippian, the student-run, daily newspaper at the University of Mississippi

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

**FALL SEMESTER:** August through December

**FEES:** required financial charges placed on student accounts upon enrollment in courses; example- labs, non-resident

**FERPA:** Family Education Rights and Privacy Act; federal law that protects the privacy of student education records

**FINALS:** last week of each semester, in which every course has a final test, exam or project

**FINANCIAL AID:** oversees financial awards; examples below  
**-FEDERAL LOANS:** loans awarded by the government; must be paid back  
**-GRANTS:** financial aid awarded by the state/federal government; does not have to be paid back; may have extra requirements  
**-SCHOLARSHIP:** financial assistance awarded based on academics or other criteria, does not have to be paid back; may have different requirements

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

**GA:** Graduate Assistant

**GENERAL EDUCATION:** sometimes 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 attempted

**-CUMULATIVE GPA:** overall Grade Point Average

**-RESIDENT GPA:** Grade Point Average of courses taken at Ole Miss

**-TRANSFER GPA:** Grade Point Average of courses transferred to Ole Miss

**GRADE POINTS:** number assigned to letter grade based on the amount of hours taken; example- A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1

**GRADE REPORTING:** a report of final grades is mailed to university students after the close of each semester

**GREEK:** a term applied to members affiliated with social Greek-letter organizations

**GROVE BOWL:** final spring inter-squad football scrimmage that usually concludes Red/Blue Weekend

**HONOR ROLL:** for fall or spring semester, students who complete at least 12 hours and earn at least a 3.5 GPA

**HOTTY TODDY:** the Ole Miss cheer

**IFC:** Interfraternity Council, a representative body of men's fraternities

**INTAKE:** the process of membership selection used by fraternities and sororities belonging to the National Pan-Hellenic Council

**INTERSESSION COURSE:** compacted course that meets the two weeks after a semester, but is the equivalent of a full semester course (May, August, January)

**M,T,W,TH,F:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

**MAJOR:** primary course of study a student wishes to pursue

**MINOR:** secondary course of study a student wishes to pursue; mandatory for some majors

**NPHC:** National Pan-Hellenic Council, the governing body of historically black fraternities and sororities

**OLE MISS:** the official name of the University of Mississippi's yearbook and embraced over the years as the University of Mississippi's nickname

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

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

**PRE-REQUISITE:** sometimes referred to as a "pre-req"; course that must be taken prior to enrolling in an advanced course

**RECRUITMENT:** the mutual selection process of membership in a Panhellenic or Interfraternity Council Greek organization

**REGISTRAR:** university official who maintains academic records for all students

**RHA:** Residence Hall Association

**SCANTRON:** used for multiple choice testing, has bubbles that must be filled in with a pencil; multiple colors

**SCHEDULE:** list of courses student is enrolled in, along with times, days, instructors, and locations

**SCHOOL:** contains administration and several academic departments; example- the School of Business Administration

**SECTION NUMBER:** identifies specific class (time, day instructor) within a course

**SEMESTER:** portion of the academic year; example- fall and spring are 16 weeks

**SPRING SEMESTER:** January through May

**STUDENT ID:** student identification card; most important possession on campus, needed to access both Flex and Express accounts and meal plans, gain entrance to residence halls, campus rec center, check out library materials, buy tickets to athletics and concert events, and scan in for classes

**SUMMER TERMS:** courses taken in months May through July  
**-FIRST SUMMER TERM:** a week of May and most of June  
**-FULL SUMMER TERM:** end of May through most of July  
**-SECOND SUMMER TERM:** a few days in June, the whole month of July

**SYLLABUS:** outline of what is expected in each class; given to a student by instructor on first day of class

**TAILGATING:** setting up tables, chairs, tents, food, and beverages to celebrate the gathering of the Ole Miss family on campus to enjoy the event of the day

**TRANSCRIPT:** official academic record of every course a student has taken, along with grades and GPA

**TUITION:** charges for classes applied to student account upon enrollment

**UNDERGRADUATE:** student who is enrolled in a Bachelor's Degree

**UPD:** University Police Department; Kinard Hall, 662-915-7234

**WAITLIST:** when all seats in a class are full, some classes allow you to be put on a list where you wait for others to drop the class

**WALK OF CHAMPIONS:** the sidewalk running through the Grove and dedicated to the 1962 Ole Miss football team, which went undefeated. The current team walks the path before every home football game

**WEBID:** this is a sign-on to access all UM web applications for taking care of university business, such as registering for classes, checking grades, and viewing other student oriented information; it is the first part of your UM email

**WELCOME WEEK:** a weeklong series of social, recreational, cultural, and artistic 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 a GPA

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

For more information visit the Orientation Guide  
and <https://olemiss.edu/audience/students.html>