

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

GLOSSARY OF ACADEMIC TERMINOLOGY

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The calendar of important semester-specific dates and deadlines for students officially registered for courses listed on Delta State's Course Schedule, as well as for all Delta State University (DSU) degree-seeking students, academic and administrative departments, and instructors. The Academic Calendar for each Academic Year is approved by the Academic Council and Cabinet, and is posted on the [Academic Calendar](#) page on the Academic Affairs website and in the academic catalogs.

ACADEMIC DEGREE

The title to be conferred by the University upon completion of the academic program. Some degrees include the name of the field of study (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Social Justice & Criminology, Master of Professional Accountancy); others (e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Education) do not. Once the degree is conferred, the degree will be reflected on the transcript and diploma.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM/PROGRAM OF STUDY

A sequence of credit courses that lead to an academic credential (e.g., degree and academic major tied to the degree, academic minor, university certificate).

ACADEMIC YEAR

The period of instruction composed of the fall, spring, and summer semesters. The academic year begins at the start of the fall semester and ends after the last day of the summer semester.

COGNATE

A set of courses outside the major that is designed to complement other components of the student's course of study and to support selected professional goals. Depending on the academic degree and discipline, a cognate may be a required component of a degree. A cognate will not appear on the transcript or diploma.

CONCENTRATION

A set of courses associated with a major that is designed to focus a student's course of study according to interest and/or career goals. Depending on the academic degree and discipline, a concentration may be a required component of a degree. A concentration will not appear on the transcript unless required for licensure. A concentration will not appear on the diploma.

CORE

A defined group of courses within a particular major or minor that is required of all students completing that major or minor.

DISCIPLINE

A branch of knowledge or subject area as organized in a specific group of courses by an academic department or division.

DOUBLE MAJORS

A program of study in which a student pursues two or more majors within the same degree program (e.g., BA, BS). Double majors are not granted to students until they have met the requirements for both majors. (The required number of hours in each major will vary.) Students seeking double majors (one degree with two majors) will be awarded one diploma. The two different majors will be noted on the transcript. Minors are not required for students seeking double majors.

DUAL DEGREES

A program of study in which a student pursues two degrees at the same level (e.g., bachelor, master). Two bachelor degrees are not granted to students until they have met the requirements for the second degree and have earned a minimum of 24 semester hours in addition to the requirements for the first degree. Students seeking dual degrees (two different degrees with two majors) will be awarded a diploma for each degree.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODES

The different modes for delivering a course to students at DSU.

FACE-TO-FACE (F2F)

Course meets with faculty and students at the same time (synchronous) in a designated physical space for the designated period of time listed on the course schedule/Banner. Note: All F2F courses must be prepared—and F2F instructors must also prepare their students—to move entirely online in the event of instructor illness, campus closures, or other reasons. Unlike with Hybrids, F2F instruction will be replaced by online instruction only in times of extenuating circumstances.

ONLINE (OL)

One hundred percent of the course instruction with substantive faculty-student and student-student interactions transpire within the University's learning management system. Instruction is asynchronous, meaning that instructional activities do not require the instructor and students to be engaged at the same time

ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS (OS)

Course meets online on a regular and predictable basis at the day and time listed on the course schedule/Banner. Synchronous meetings are intended to be a platform for strategic faculty-student, student-student, or student-content engagements. Faculty should not schedule synchronous class meetings during every designated class time and synchronous meetings should not comprise more than seventy-five percent of designated class times. Students registering for the course are expected to be prepared to meet during every scheduled class time. Faculty provide and maintain a schedule in the University's learning management system of all synchronous activities. This mode of instruction is not intended for use in a fully-online program.

HYBRID (HYB)

Course meets online with regularly scheduled, required, and strategic F2F interactions that avoid passive activities, such as lecturing without dialectical exchanges with most students.

Designated meeting times are listed on the course schedule/Banner. Course meets routinely F2F with the entire class on selected days (e.g., Thursdays) during the semester with a focus on:

- a) intensive engagement with the instructor or classmates,
- b) use of campus equipment, or
- c) other activities that do not lend themselves well to online delivery.

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

An interdisciplinary program is an academic pathway (degree or concentration) consisting of a combination of courses from two or more disciplines, as determined in consultation between an advisor and a student.

LICENSURE PROGRAM

A set or sequence of courses and experiences required for a student to be eligible to obtain a license issued by an agency, group or professional organization.

MAJOR

A coherent set of required and elective courses approved by the University's academic program review process and meeting state criteria that, when completed by a student, signifies a degree of preparation in a field or fields of study. The credit hour requirements for the major are set by the respective colleges and academic units and may not consist of less than 120 hours (undergraduate) and 30 hours (graduate). A student must formally declare a major by the end of their first year.

MINOR

A cohesive set of required and elective courses that, when completed by a student, connotes knowledge and skills in a discipline, region or topic area, but not at the depth of a major. The minor is designed for students who are not majoring in the same area and typically requires between 18-24 credit hours, as set by the respective academic unit and college. A student must formally declare the minor for it to appear on the transcript of record. Depending on the academic degree and discipline, a minor may be a required component of a degree.

PART OF TERM

A sub-division of a full term or an expansion across a full term. A course offered in a part of term has different add/drop/withdrawal/no show, etc. deadlines. Students, faculty and staff can find the deadlines on the [Important Deadlines](#) page on the website. Intersessions, 5-week sessions and half term sessions are considered parts of term. Full summer classes are also technically considered a part of term.

TERM/SEMESTER

A division of the academic year during which a course of studies is offered. The terms at Delta State are currently Summer I and II (approximately 4 weeks each), Fall (approximately 15 weeks) and Spring (approximately 15 weeks).

TRANSCRIPT

A physical or electronic record of a student's academic history of coursework completed at DSU and the grades and associated grade point average received. Also listed on the transcript are declared academic credentials, awarded academic credentials for students who have completed their degree, and university honors awarded by the institution upon the conferral of a degree. Only DSU students who have been enrolled in DSU regular or dual enrollment/credit courses will have a DSU academic transcript.