

## Western New England University Lingo Directory

### A Guide for First-Generation College Students

Here is a list of some common college terms that a first-generation college student might not be familiar with and their definitions:

**BLUE Course:** The Belonging and Learning in the University Environment (BLUE) course is an essential complement to each student's first semester at WNE. Taught by students' first-year academic advisor or faculty mentor and supported by a peer advisor, BLUE invites students to explore their academic, professional, and personal interests and their purpose in relation to the opportunities and support at WNE.

**Bursar:** The office responsible for managing and collecting student tuition and fees. Sometimes called Student Accounts or Billing.

**Career Coach:** Specialized coaches for each college, Arts & Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Health Studies & Pharmacy. Career Coaches offer personalized support for internships, resumes, and job searches.

**Credit Hours:** Credit hours are units of measurement that represent the amount of time a student spends in class each week. Typically, one credit hour is equivalent to one hour of class time per week for a semester.

**Dean:** A dean is a high-level administrator who oversees a specific area of a college or university, such as a college or school within the university. Deans are responsible for managing academic programs, providing leadership to faculty and staff, and ensuring that their area of the institution is functioning effectively and efficiently.

**Elective:** A course that a student can choose to take in addition to their required courses, often in a subject of their choice.

**Financial Aid:** Dedicated office on campus responsible for supporting students with loans, scholarships, grants, and work-study awards, to help students fund their education.

**GOLD Course:** A Gateway to Opportunity, Learning, and Discovery (GOLD) course introduces students to university-level learning, sets the stage for their educational journey, and helps them to connect the general education program to their interests. In a GOLD course, students engage in inquiry and critical thinking on a topic that is current, timeless, challenging, or thought-provoking.

**Golden Bear Discovery:** Western New England's general education program, called Golden Bear Discovery, gives students the academic skillsets, mindsets, and knowledge necessary for today's world. Through at least 40 credits of coursework, the Golden Bear Discovery program prepares each student to succeed in their major and in their career. The program features flexible requirements, so students can adapt Golden Bear Discovery to their interests and needs.

**GPA:** GPA stands for grade point average, which is a numerical representation of a student's academic performance in college. GPAs are calculated by taking into account the grades a student receives in each of their courses, and are used by colleges and universities to assess a student's academic progress.

**Internship:** A supervised work or training experience that provides students with practical experience in a particular field.

**Major:** A major is a specific field of study that a student chooses to focus on for their college education. Students typically declare their major in their second or third year of college and complete a set of required courses in their chosen field.

**In Progress Grades:** Provided to students half way through the each semester to inform students of their progress in the course. These grades are not final and will be impacted by the remaining of the semester's work.

**Minor:** A minor is a secondary field of study that a student can choose to take courses in. Minors are less comprehensive than majors and typically require fewer courses to complete.

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisites are courses that a student is required to take and complete before enrolling in a more advanced course. Prerequisites are typically specified by the college or university and are meant to ensure that students have a solid foundation of knowledge before taking more advanced courses.

**Provost:** The Provost is the chief academic officer at a college or university, responsible for overseeing all academic programs and initiatives. The Provost works closely with deans, department chairs, and faculty to ensure that academic programs meet the needs of students and support the mission of the institution.

**Registrar:** The Registrar's office is responsible for managing student records, including course schedules, grades, and transcripts. The registrar's office is also responsible for

maintaining the accuracy and integrity of student records and ensuring that student information is up-to-date.

**Student Senate:** An elected body of students who represent the student body and advocate for their interests to the administration.

**Student Hub:** One-stop location for WNE students to receive support and guidance related to involvement, academic support, and other needs as they arise.

**Syllabus:** A syllabus is a document that outlines the course content, goals, and expectations for a particular class. It usually includes information on course readings, assignments, exams, and grading policies.

**University Advisor:** Someone who provides guidance and support to students in planning their academic careers, selecting courses, and meeting degree requirements.

These are just a few of the many terms that first-generation college students may encounter as they navigate the college experience. Understanding these terms and what they mean can help first-generation students feel more confident and prepared as they work towards their academic and career goals.