

Compass Center's Drury Dictionary

Coming to college can be a huge transition. There are likely terms, people, and phrases students have never heard before. This glossary was created to help define these terms for students, parents and families and provide links to find more information across Drury's website.

Academic Advisor - Provide respectful, responsive, informed support for students as they identify and achieve their academic and professional goals. Advisors will help students understand possible outcomes of their academic decisions, navigate institutional structures and connect with resources on campus.

Academic year - Begins in August with the fall semester, continues through the spring semester, and concludes with the summer semester.

Advising worksheet - Advising tool that assists in tracking a students' progress towards graduation. It can be accessed by selecting the *Course Needs* link on the *Student* tab on students' [MyDrury](#) account.

Alumni - Individuals who have attended and graduated from a particular school, college or university.

Business Office - Assists students with financial and administrative issues concerning tuition, fees, & financial aid. Students make payments to Drury through the Business Office.

Career Planning & Development – Offers personal and professional discovery to enrich students' college experiences and shape their future. Job and internship searches, resume building, and mock interviews are just some of the many services offered.

Catalog - University's official publication of academic policies, procedures, programs of study, and course offerings for the academic year. Students follow the requirements of the edition of the Catalog for their admission or readmission year.

Certificate - Collection of courses indicating additional specialization in an area of study beyond the major and minors. Drury is unique in that our students can merge professional goals and personal passions. You'll choose at least three credentials: one major, one certificate, and a third being the students' choice.



College - Group of academic departments and/or programs administered by a college dean.

The Commons - Commons Dining Hall, located in Findley Student Center, is where students can go to eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Food is available in a cafeteria style and is all-you-can-eat. Students can use meal plans and Panther Bucks that are loaded onto Drury ID's.

Cox Compass Center – The Robert and Mary Cox Compass Center offers personal and professional discovery to enrich students' college experiences and shape students' future. It's the foundation of Your Drury Fusion. Academic Advising, Career Planning & Development, Disability Support Services, and Academic Life Coaching all exist under one roof.

Credit hour - Academic credit hours are awarded when a student completes a course each semester. The number of hours per course usually reflects the amount of time spent in class in a typical week (i.e. a course meeting three times per week for 50 minutes is usually a 3-credit-hour course), but laboratory- or activity-based courses can vary.

The CX (Campus Exchange) - A bistro-style dining option located in Springfield Hall. Starbucks coffee, bottled beverages, and a limited menu are offered here with space for students to sit, eat and relax. Students can use meal plans and Panther Bucks here.

Dean - Head of a college, school or university.

Dean's List - List of students who receive special recognition from the dean of a college for superior grades. The list is published at the conclusion of each semester.

Declaring a major/minor - Indicates that student wishes to pursue a particular major and/or minor. Many majors have specific admission requirements and courses needed to complete the specific major/minor.

Department - Division of a college dealing with a particular field of knowledge.

Department Chair - Administrative officer holding faculty rank; responsible for a primary unit within an academic organization.



Disability Support Services - Provides an inclusive environment for students with disabilities with equal access to academics and university life. Accommodations may be provided for students with all forms of disabilities in order to reduce barriers on campus. Services will be determined on an individual basis to best support a student's journey and academic success at Drury.

Drury Go – Drury's Global Online programs, offering evening and online options for course completion.

Drury ID Card - Student's official university identification card. This card also functions as a keycard allowing you into several buildings across campus and can function as a debit card when loaded with money to pay for on-campus meal plans.

Faculty Advisor- A faculty member in the department of a student's major and expert in their field of study. They can help with questions about majors, minors, internships & research opportunities that will help students achieve their academic and professional goals.

FERPA - The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. All educational institutions that receive federal funding must comply with FERPA.

Financial Aid - Money given or lent to students to help pay for their education. The office of Financial Aid can assist students with questions or concerns regarding these options.

First-generation student - A student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have not completed a bachelor's degree and is the first in their family to attend a four-year college/university to attain a bachelor's degree.

Freshman Experience Program - A program consisting of many elements which are designed to help freshman transition easily into life at Drury.

F. W. Olin Library - The library has a large selection of books, articles and other resources for students to use as well as study rooms available for study groups.

GA (Graduate Assistant) - Students in a graduate program who, in return for receiving tuition remission and/or a stipend, perform research or work in an administrative area.



GPA - Grade point average, or a calculation resulting from dividing the grade points earned by the number of credits attempted.

Grant - Need-based assistance that generally does not have to be repaid. [Check out the Financial Aid Glossary of Terms.](#)

Greek Life – A collective of social fraternities and sororities on a college campus. These organizations aim to enhance their members' leadership development, support academic performance, recognize positive achievements, contribute meaningfully to the campus and community, and provide bonds or brother- or sisterhood between members.

Hall Director (HD)- The staff member in charge of the residence hall and RA staff in their building.

Handshake - An online platform which assists students in their career planning and development. It is also used to schedule appointments with various people and departments around campus.

Hold - Block which prohibits students from registering for courses, receiving a transcript or diploma. Most holds are due to not completing required processes or paying financial obligations.

Internship - Work at a business or agency related to a student's major and/or career plans. Credit hours can often be awarded for this work.

Major - Collection of courses and requirements that is designated as the student's primary area of specialization. Drury is unique in that our students can merge professional goals and personal passions. Students choose at least three credentials: one major, one certificate, and a third being students' choice.

Meal Packages - Meal plans offered are for the academic year and each meal plan contains two components: Blocks (meals) and Panther Bucks, the block plans are based on meals per semester. Students' unused Panther Bucks roll over from the fall semester to the spring semester, if you purchase a spring semester meal plan. However, meal plans do not roll from academic year to academic year.

Minor - Collection of courses indicating additional specialization in an area of study beyond the major. Drury is unique in that our students can merge professional goals and personal passions. You'll choose at least three credentials: one major, one certificate, and a third being students' choice, which can include a minor.



The Mirror - The official independent student newspaper at Drury University.

MyDrury - Web-based system that provides access to personal student information, email, Moodle, online registration, and much more.

Lecture hours / lab hours - Represents the average number of hours per week a course will meet in a lecture or laboratory environment. Generally, one hour spent in a lecture environment is equivalent to two hours spent in a laboratory environment.

Loan - Loans are a type of financial aid that requires repayment after graduation or discontinuing one's education. Most loan programs offer low interest rates and long-term repayment plans. Some loan programs base their funding on financial needs while others are determined regardless of financial need. [Check out the Financial Aid Glossary of Terms.](#)

O-leader (Orientation leader) - A student leader who guides a small group of new students through Orientation. This student is also assigned to a specific FUSE 101 section and plans events to help students get to know their classmates and campus better.

Overload - Registration for more than 17 hours total or 7 hours in a block constitutes an academic overload. An approved Request to Enroll for an Overload must be submitted during the add/drop period of the semester or block to register for overload. Overload is not permitted in Summer, May, or Winter Terms. Overload hours will result in additional tuition charges. Financial assistance may be granted on overload courses.

Panther Bucks - Each meal plan includes a set amount of Panther Bucks, which can be used in both the Commons and CX to order food. Panther Bucks roll over from first semester to second and terminate at the end of the year. If students run out of Panther Bucks within the year, more can be added. Any additional Panther Bucks purchased may be refunded at the end of the academic year. This is loaded onto students' Drury ID card, much like a debit card.

Panther Growl - A loud growl played throughout campus as a way of signaling a student's intent to enroll at Drury.

Prerequisite - Specific requirements that must be met prior to enrolling in a class. Prerequisites may consist of courses, test scores, or enrollment in a specific program of study.



Provost - The senior academic administrator at a college or university. This person provides supervision and oversight of the university's curricular, instructional, and research activities.

RA (Resident assistant) - A student leader who organizes events in the residence halls and works to ensure a positive living and learning experience.

Registrar - Assists students in registering for classes and maintains the web-based advising module program. It also provides other services, such as fulfilling transcript requests, maintaining academic records, and helping students prepare for graduation.

Registration - The period when students can sign up for classes. Every semester students will meet with their faculty or academic advisor to create an academic plan. Students can then register online through their MyDrury account.

Scholarships - Merit-based financial aid awards that do not have to be repaid. [Check out the Financial Aid Glossary of Terms.](#)

Semester - Instructional period of 15 weeks plus a final examination period offered twice a year (referred to as Fall and Spring semester). Additional instructional periods include intersessions and a summer session.

Seminar - A class at a college or university where an instructor and a small group of students discuss a topic or topics.

Stone Chapel - Once the location of compulsory chapel services for Drury students, it is now a favorite location for weddings, VIP receptions, The Open Table events, and a community resource. Stone Chapel is the oldest stone structure in Springfield, using local stone quarried from within the Ozarks.

Study Abroad - A program in which students can take courses and pursue educational opportunities in a country other than their own.

Syllabus - A document describing the objectives, outcomes, assessment activities, and structure of a course. It is made available to students during the first week of classes.



Transcript - A student's official academic record and the university's official record of credit and degrees awarded. Includes the courses taken by a student, the grades received in each course, probations, suspensions, and disciplinary expulsions.

Tuition - The amount of money that must be paid for classes including additional fees that vary for each student.

Work study - A form of financial aid in which students with financial need are provided part-time jobs to earn money to help pay education expenses. This money is paid directly to the student and not automatically applied to tuition and fees.

Your Drury Fusion - FUSION is a career-building, life-changing academic experience that enhances students' ability to problem-solve, think critically and be more adaptable to a world that is rapidly changing. It is designed to give students the skills and knowledge to succeed in a future that none of us can imagine today. Completed by all students regardless of major, FUSION is highly customizable and designed to be unique to each student. While FUSION will look different for each student, its foundational pieces are universal.

