Listed below are terms commonly used at colleges or universities or terms used specifically at Boise State University. This section is designed to provide a brief definition of usage. To obtain detailed information about policies or programs, please refer to the appropriate section of this catalog.

**Academic Advising:** The process between a student and an academic advisor in which the student forms educational goals and plans ways to acheive them. Students who want to register for eight or more credits are required to obtain an advisor's signature on their official advising/registration form.

**Academic Advisor:** A faculty or professional staff member who assists students in the development of an academic plan and in the selection of appropriate courses for registration.

**Accreditation:** Accredited programs and institutions meet certain standards set for it by a professional or government organization. Normally accreditation lasts for a certain number of years, after which the program or institution is re-evaluated to make sure it still meets the standard criteria. Boise State University is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges. Specific departments and majors are also accredited by a variety of organizations and agencies.

**ACT:** American College Test. This, or the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), is required for all undergraduate students applying for admission to Boise State University.

**Adjunct Faculty:** A qualified person who teaches or consults at the university on a part-time basis.

**Admission:** The process of being admitted to the university. This usually requires submission and evaluation of test scores, high school and college transcripts and evaluation of those to determine eligibility for admission.

**Advanced Placement (AP):** A method of receiving college credit by taking a test administered by the College Entrance Examination Board.

**Alumni:** Those who have attended or graduated from a school, college or university. "Alumni" is the plural form; the feminine singular is "alumna" and the masculine singular is "alumnus."

**AP:** See Advanced Placement.

**Associate degree:** A two-year degree.

**Associated Students of Boise State University (ASBSU):** BSU's student governing body. Elections are held in the fall for the Student Senate and in the spring for officers.

**Area Requirements:** (See Core).

**Arbiter:** The student newspaper published weekly during the academic year.

**Audit:** Enrollment without grade or credit. Allowed on a space-available basis and instructor may require exams and class participation. Course fees are the same for audit or credit.

**Baccalaureate degree:** The same as a bachelor's degree.

**Bachelor's degree:** The degree received after four or more years of full-time study at a college or university that complies with established requirements.

**Bluebook:** An examination booklet some instructors require students to use when they take essay tests. These are available in the Bookstore.

**Board of Education:** A nine-member governing body appointed by the Governor of Idaho. The Board meets bi-monthly to decide on matters affecting the University and higher education in Idaho.

**Certification, teacher:** The state of Idaho sets certain standards that all teachers employed in the state must meet.

**Challenge:** The ability to obtain credit for a course through examination or other validation process.

**Chair:** The head of an academic department.

**Change of schedule:** See Drop/Add.

**Class schedule:** (1) A guide to the classes offered each semester, published by the Registrar's Office. It lists the courses to be offered, meeting days, times, instructors, etc. Also called "Directory of Classes". (2) A schedule of classes which can be printed for each student listing the courses registered for in a current or future semester.

**CLEP:** College Level Examination Program; a way to earn credit by taking tests.

**Closed:** Most courses have a limit on how many students can enroll. If a course is closed, it cannot accommodate any more students.

**Collation:** A listing of courses from other colleges or universities a student has attended that BSU has accepted as equivalent to BSU courses or accepted as non-equivalent electives.

**Continuing education:** A program of credit or non-credit courses, usually offered off-campus to meet professional and community needs.

**Co-requisite:** Co-requisite courses must be taken together, usually a lecture and a lab. If a course has a co-requisite, it is so indicated in the Directory of Classes.

**Core:** General education requirements required of all students who earn a baccalaureate degree from Boise State University. Also called Area Requirements.

**Correspondence Study:** Courses taken by mail. Idaho has a consortium of Correspondence courses offered by various institutions.

**Course Description:** A short statement describing a course.

**Course number:** A three-digit number that follows a department abbreviation used to identify a course: E 101, Z 111, etc. The course number is an indication of the course level: 100- and 200-level courses are lower division courses primarily for freshmen and sophomore level students; 300- and 400-level are upper division courses for juniors and seniors, 500- and above are for graduate students.

**Credit Hour:** The unit used to measure course work. The number of semester hours assigned to a course is usually based upon the number of hours per week the class meets. For example, a three-hour course might meet three times a week for 50 minutes. In laboratory and studio courses, one semester hour is usually assigned for every two or three hours spent in studio or laboratory.

**Credit for Life Experience:** See Experiential Learning.

**Credit for Prerequisites Not Taken:** With permission, qualified students may take certain courses without having completed the listed pre-requisite and obtain credit for the pre-requisite after successful completion of the higher level course.

**Cum laude:** Latin for "with praise"; indicates graduation with exceptionally high grades (at BSU, with a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.74). See also Magna cum laude, Summa cum laude.

**Cumulative GPA:** Grade point average over all semesters enrolled. Sometimes shortened to "cum" (for cumulative average).

**CWSP:** Federal College Work-Study Program. See Work-Study.

**Dean:** The head of a division, such as the Dean of the College of Arts and Science. BSU also has administrative deans, e.g., Dean of Student Special Services and Dean of Admissions.

**Dean's List:** A roster of students who have received very high grades (3.50-4.0) for a semester of full-time enrollment (12 gradeable credits or more).

**Deferred Fees:** Paying fees in three installments during the semester.

**Department:** A group of faculty in the same discipline; for example the department of marketing, the department of English.

**Directory of Classes:** See Class Schedule.

**Discipline:** A major field of study. "Interdisciplinary" refers to a program that includes several areas of study.

**Dismissal, academic:** Action taken as a result of continued poor academic performance. See Grading and Academic Progress Standards of this catalog for more information.

**Dismissal, conduct:** A result of the most serious violations of university rules. See Code of Conduct section of the Student Handbook.

**Dissertation:** A work of original research required of graduate students working for a doctorate (Ph.D. or Ed.D.).

**Division:** A sub-unit of a College, e.g., Division of Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Doctorate (e.g., Ph.D. or Doctor of Philosophy, or Ed.D. Doctor of Education):** The highest degree attainable in most academic fields. To earn a doctorate, you take several years of class work, pass a set of comprehensive examinations and write a dissertation.

**Drop/Add:** To drop or add a class; to change sections or to change from credit to audit or audit to credit.

**Ed.D. see Doctorate**

**Emeritus:** A retired faculty or staff member who has served the University at least 15 years. Female: ermita, plural: ermeriti.

**Endorsement:** Course work in specific areas of study that are recognized in the state of Idaho for teaching specialization.
Elective: A course that does not meet any set of requirements. Each major at BSU allows electives so students have the opportunity to take courses of their choice outside their requirements.

Experiential Learning: All forms of non-traditional credit such as CLEP, AP, Prior Learning Portfolio, Challenge, Credit for Prerequisites Not Taken, military credit, etc.

FAFSA: See Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Financial Aid Activity: Physical Education Activity courses for general interest such as tennis, bowling, kayaking, aerobics, etc. Offered for Pass/Fail.

Fraternity: There are three types of fraternities at BSU: honorary, with membership based upon academic and leadership achievement; service, formed to provide various services to the university and the surrounding community; and social, which are for men only. Four social fraternities at BSU maintain houses near the campus.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: Application form for federal, state and BSU-funded financial aid. See section on financial aid in this catalog.

Freshman: A student who has completed fewer than 26 semester hours.

Full-time, part-time student: These are classifications based upon how many credit hours a student is taking. A full-time undergraduate student is one taking fewer than 12 credit hours in a semester; a full-time student is one taking 12 or more. For the purposes of enrollment verification for Pell Grants, student loans, veteran's benefits and other verifications to outside agencies, undergraduate students must be enrolled in 12 credits to be considered full-time. See full-time paying student.

Full-time paying student: A full-time payment student is enrolled in eight credit hours or more and pays the full-fees rather than the per-credit hour cost. Full-time paying students are entitled to athletic tickets, use of the health center, health insurance and ability to participate in all on-campus activities. A full-time paying student must be enrolled for 12 credits to be considered "full-time." See Full-Time Student.

Good standing: The status of a student who is not on academic probation, one who has a cumulative grade point average higher than that required for the number of credit hours earned.

GPA: Grade point average, figured according to how many hours you have taken and the grades you have received. BSU grades on a 4.0 scale.

Graduate assistant (G.A.): A student working for a graduate degree who also teaches, conducts research or works in a university office part-time. In exchange for their work, graduate assistants may receive a small salary and tuition waiver.

Grant: A financial aid award based upon need that does not require repayment.

Honors Program: A program of courses supplemental to the student's individual major designed for promising, motivated students who have been admitted to the program.

Hold: An unpaid financial obligation or academic dismissal that prevents a student from registering until the obligation is paid or dismissal is cleared.

Hour: See Semester Hour or Credit Hour.

Hyphenated courses: Course number separated by a hyphen (as in E 111-112) must be taken in numerical order and the first is pre-requisite to the other.

Identification (ID) card: Issued to each student, the ID card has a picture and other information. Required for checking books out of the library, admission to campus events, cashing checks, eligibility for meal service and other purposes.

Incomplete: With instructor permission, an "incomplete" grade can be assigned to students passing a course within the last three weeks of the semester but who cannot finish all the work required by the end of the semester. Work must be completed by midterm of the next semester of enrollment.

Independent study: If a student has a special interest in an area not covered by a regular class, he or she can arrange to take an independent study with a faculty member.

Intercollegiate athletics: A program of sports teams that compete with other colleges and universities. Besides intercollegiate athletics, Boise State has intramural sports (in which BSU teams compete with each other).

Interdisciplinary: Encompassing several fields of study, as in BSU's Department of Interdisciplinary Humanities. A bachelor's degree and master's degree are offered in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Internship: On-the-job experience in an area of interest or major for academic credit.

Intramural sports: A program of sports in which BSU teams compete with each other.

Junior: A student who has earned 58 to 89 semester hours.

Lab: Short for laboratory. Listed after each course title are a set of numbers (for example 3-4-5) to indicate how many hours are required each week in lecture and how many in laboratory. The final number shows total credit hours for the course. Labs are usually co-requisite to lectures.

Late Registration: Registration after the first week of class. Requires special permission from University Appeals Committee.

Lecture: The standard format in which most courses are taught. Listed after each course title are a set of numbers (for example 3-4-5) to indicate how many hours are required each week in lecture and how many in laboratory.

Lower Division: 100 and 200 level courses

Magna cum laude: Latin for "with great praise"; indicates graduation with exceptionally high grades. At BSU, you must have a 3.75 to 3.94 grade point average to graduate magna cum laude. See also cum laude, summa cum laude.

Major: A primary field of study, such as accounting, philosophy, elementary education, biology.

Master's degree: A degree beyond the bachelor's, but below the doctorate. A master's degree usually requires about 30 semester hours of graduate courses and may require a thesis (a research paper).

Matriculate: To complete all admissions requirements to enroll at a college or university.

Mentor: A faculty or staff member or fellow student who provides extra time to a student to guide and support educational and personal growth.

Minor: An optional field of study that can be taken along with a major.

National Direct Student Loan (NDSL): The former name of a federally regulated student loan program. See Perkins Loan.

Non-Degree Seeking Student: A student who wishes to take courses for personal interest or job advancement with no plans to pursue a degree program. These students are not required to supply transcripts or test scores but are limited to seven credits each semester and are ineligible for financial aid.

Non-Traditional Student: Any new or returning student who is not attending college immediately following high school.

NSE: National Student Exchange. A consortia program that allows students to attend other participating institutions for a semester or a year at in-state rates.

Open course: A course that still has seats remaining during registration.

Pass/Fail: Courses that are offered for Pass/Fail rather than letter grades of A,B,C,D. These courses are set up by the offering department for this option at the time the course is approved. Examples of Pass/Fail courses are Fitness Activity, Student Teaching, selected internships, etc. BSU does not allow students to select Pass/Fail as a grading option for their courses. Pell Grant. Formerly the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BECG), the Federal Pell Grant program is a federally administered program of financial aid.

Perkins Loan: Formerly the National Direct Student Loan (NDSL), the Federal Perkins Loan program is a federally regulated program of financial aid, offering deferred-payment loans at low interest.

Ph.D.: Doctor of Philosophy. See Doctorate.

Placement examination: A test to measure a student's knowledge in some area, usually used to determine level of study student is prepared. Placement tests at BSU are offered in English, mathematics for students without ACT or SAT scores and in some foreign languages.

Prerequisite: Before taking an advanced course, it is sometimes necessary to complete another course (a prerequisite) which gives the necessary background. Prerequisites are indicated at the end of the course description.

Prohibition, academic: Action taken when grades fall below an acceptable level. See Grading and Academic Progress Standards for GPA requirements.

Probation, academic: Action taken when grades fall below an acceptable level. See Grading and Academic Progress Standards for GPA requirements.

Probation, conduct: This results from a violation of University rules designed to preserve order and protect the rights of others. See the section on Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.
Quarter: See semester.

R.A.: See Resident assistant.

Rank, academic: All members of the faculty have academic rank, which usually indicates level of education and years of service to BSU. The most common ranks are, from lowest to highest: lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, professor.

Reasonable Academic Progress: Federally required standard to assure financial aid recipients progress toward the completion of a degree or certificate.

Refund: A reimbursement of tuition and fees paid if withdrawal occurs within the first 10 days of the semester.

Registration: Process of enrolling in courses prior to the beginning of each semester.

Repeat: Taking a course a second time to improve a grade.

Reserve (library): A collection of books and articles set aside for use by a certain group of students.

Residence hall: A dormitory; a unit of student housing.

Resident assistant (R.A.): A specially trained student living in a residence hall to assist the students there. Generally, there is one R.A. for each floor in the hall.

Resident Director: A paid university staff member overseeing the daily operation and supervision of the residents of a residence hall.

Residency (for fees): To pay in-state fees, a student must be a resident of the state of Idaho.

Residency (for graduation): The minimum credit requirements to earn a degree from an institution. The last 30 credits must be completed at Boise State University to earn a baccalaureate degree (15 are required for an associate degree).

ROTC: Reserve Officers Training Corps, a program through which a student completes certain military science courses along with his or her regular university courses. Upon graduation, students in ROTC are commissioned as officers in the armed forces.

Sabbatical: A period of paid release time (a semester or academic year) provided to faculty for the purpose of devoting time to writing, research or scholarship.

SAT: Scholastic Aptitude Test. This, or the ACT (American College Test), is required of all students applying for admission to BSU.

Scholarship: A financial award that may be given on the basis of generally high grades or achievement in a certain area (such as music).

Section: Courses that enroll large numbers of students are divided into individual classes called sections. Sections are defined by numbers: 002, 070, etc. Every course has at least one section. Sections numbers 400 and higher indicate continuing education courses.

Semester: A 16-week term and the basis for BSU's academic calendar. Some colleges and universities use the quarter system (with three 10-week offerings are listed in the Directory of Classes each semester.

Seminar: A small class, usually one that examines a particular topic. Seminars are typically discussion-oriented and are most commonly offered at the junior, senior or graduate level.

Senior: A student who has earned 90 or more semester hours.

SEOG: See Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant.

Sophomore: A student who has completed 29-57 semester hours.

Sorority: An organization of women, usually for fellowship or other social purposes. Social sororities at BSU do not have houses.

Special collections: A set of library materials of special value that generally do not circulate, but may be used for research. The Boise State University library houses the Senator Frank Church papers among others.

Special Topics: Courses numbered 297, 497 or 597 that are offered in areas of special interest or to test a new course. These courses are listed each semester in the Directory of Classes.

Stafford Loan: A low interest federal loan program through lending institutions (formerly called the GSL program).

Student Handbook: A university publication that includes rules and regulations, student rights and responsibilities, grievance procedures, motor vehicle regulations and other official policies of the University. It is available from the Office of Student Special Services.

Student Programs Board (SPB): A student organization that plans special programs: movies, dances, workshops, etc.

Student Senate: An elected body of student representatives and officers—part of BSU's Associated Student Government.

Student Union: BSU's student center or student union, with a cafeteria, residence dining room, snack bar, lounges, the BSU Bookstore, a game room, bowling alley, office of student organizations, meeting rooms and other facilities.

Summa cum laude: Latin for "with the greatest praise"; indicating graduation with exceptionally high grades (at BSU, at 3.95 grade point average). The highest graduation honor one can receive. See also Cum laude, Magna cum laude.

SUB: See Student Union.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): A federal financial aid grant program for students with exceptional need.

Suspension, academic: See Dismissal, academic.

Suspension, conduct: See Dismissal, conduct.

Syllabus: A handout given by an instructor to his or her students at the beginning of the semester. It usually lists course assignments, required texts, office hours and other information the students will need.

Telecourse: Courses offered for credit on public television. Telecourse offerings are listed in the Directory of Classes each semester.

Tenure: The purpose of tenure is to assure academic freedom and job security for a university's faculty.

Thesis: An extensive research paper that may be required for upper-division research courses or for a master's degree.

Time conflict: Registration for two classes meeting at the same time.

Time frame: Registration for the courses without the permission of the instructors.

Transcript: A record of all the courses you have taken, their credit hours and the grades you received. The Registrar's Office keeps transcripts for all students at BSU. Students may obtain copies of their transcripts for advising or other purposes. Advising transcripts for on-campus use are free. Official Transcripts can be obtained for $2.

Transfer student: One who has registered for courses at another college or university besides BSU.

Tuition: The fee charged to students for their instruction. At BSU, only non-resident tuition for select students from certain western states who are enrolled in certain programs.
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