

GLOSSARY OF COMMON COLLEGE TERMS FOR STUDENTS

ACADEMIC ADVISOR

The purpose of academic advising is to help students reach their educational goals. Advisors may be a faculty or staff member who assists students with course selection, academic planning, and navigating policies.

BACKOUT

“Backout” is a term that refers to the Business Office process which occurs at specified dates during each semester, for which a student will be “backed out” or dropped from the courses the student is enrolled due to lack of funding on the student’s account (payment out of pocket, financial aid, or payment plan, etc.).

CANVAS / LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS):

CANVAS is the platform P&HCC uses to host online classes. Students will use CANVAS to complete assignments, connect with instructors and check their grades during the semester.

CREDITS

Units of measurement for coursework, typically representing the amount of time spent in class each week.

DIRECT ENROLLMENT SURVEY

If this will be your first semester, you need to start with the Direct Enrollment Survey to determine which classes you may need to prioritize.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Completing the FAFSA is the first step in applying for financial aid and it must be completed each year.

FINANCIAL AID

Funding assistance provided to students to help cover the cost of tuition, fees, and other educational expenses.

FIRST GENERATION STUDENT

A college student who is the first in their family to go to college.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

Prevents the discussion of a student's education records, including their student account, with anyone other than the student themselves without the student's permission. This law safeguards the privacy of students' educational information and ensures that they have control over who can access and discuss their records.

OFFICE HOURS

Times when you can meet with your professor to discuss the material being presented in class or other related interests you have.

PATHWAY

A pathway is a guide used to assist students in taking the appropriate courses at P&HCC that will transfer for credit toward a bachelor's degree at partnering colleges and universities.

PRE-REQUISITE

A course that must be completed before enrolling in another course, or apply to a competitive entry program.

PROGRAM OF STUDY/CURRICULUM

A program of study is a curriculum of courses that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Non-negotiable requirements a student must meet to earn a degree.

PROFESSOR/INSTRUCTOR

A person who leads and instructs a particular course. The professors and instructors you work with at P&HCC come from all different backgrounds and experiences. Get to know them!

REGISTRATION

The process through which students sign up for their classes each term.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial aid awarded to students based on academic achievement, athletic ability, or other criteria.

SEMESTER/TERM

An academic term lasting approximately 16 weeks, typically divided into fall and spring semesters.

Finding your way among all the technology systems you need for your digital school day can be tough. So many places, so many links, and so many logins! MyP&HCC is a better way! Sign in once, and then have direct access to the systems and sources of information you need. Students can access their email, Office 365, CANVAS, SIS, and more- all in one place!

STUDENT PORTAL /MYP&HCC

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SYLLABUS

A syllabus is your guide to a course and what will be expected of you in the course. Generally, it will include course policies, rules and regulations, required texts, and a schedule of assignments. You can also find your instructor's contact information on this document.

TERM/SESSIONS

An academic term lasting approximately 8 weeks, typically divided into first and second session, or 1st 8 weeks and 2nd 8 weeks.

TRANSCRIPT

Documentation of a student's permanent academic record, including all courses taken, all grades and honors received, and degrees conferred to the student.