



# PSE Glossary

**Academic Advisor** – An on-campus advisor who helps students select courses or programs that match their interests, career plans and academic qualifications.

**Academic Calendar** – An annual calendar by the college/university listing key dates in the academic year like the first day of classes, last day to drop a class without academic penalty, reading week, etc.

**Academic year** – The time during which classes are taught (usually September-May).

**Admission** – Being accepted into an institution, faculty or program once the entrance requirements are met. (Conditional admission is usually first offered before a high school student has graduated).

**Admission Requirements** – The list of requirements you need to get accepted to a post-secondary program. These can include specific courses, grade point average, portfolio work, letter of intent etc.

**Adult Basic Education** – Allows students over 18 years old to upgrade their education to an equivalent of Grade 12 high school completion.

**Application** – Formal way of notifying a post-secondary institution that you want to be a student there.

**Apprenticeship** – A workplace-based training program involving both in-school studies and supervised on-the-job training. Some occupations, especially those in the trades, may require an apprenticeship to become licenced to work.

**Baccalaureate or Bachelor's Degree** – An undergraduate university degree requiring three or four years of full-time study, often with a specific Major, Minor or Concentration.

**Bursary** – An amount of money awarded to students to help them pay for school that they do not have to pay back. They are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

**Campus** – The buildings and area of a college or university.

**Career/technical** – An applied program of study involving theoretical and practical knowledge, usually leading directly to a certificate or diploma (one or two years of study) to be used for employment in a specific career.

**Certificate** – A qualification awarded upon successful completion of a post-secondary program which is usually 12 weeks to one year in duration.

**College** – A post-secondary institution which offers both academic and technical or vocational courses leading to an associate's degree, diploma or certificate, or academic transfer courses that can be transferred to a university for further studies.

**Concurrent Studies** – A secondary school student who is taking post-secondary credit courses while in high school is enrolled in concurrent studies.

**Continuing Education** – Non-credit courses, lectures, workshops, and seminars, usually offered in the evening or on weekends in a variety of areas, such as: general interest, employment, language skills, vocational, and business.



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**Cooperative or Co-op (Program)** – The system of having paid work placements, usually four to eight months long, as a component of a program of study.

**Dean** – An Administrator in charge of a division of a university or college. Each faculty of study will have its own Dean (ex: Dean of Arts and Science).

**Diploma** – A formal credential issued to a student who has successfully completed a program that is usually two academic years of full-time study geared towards employment in a particular career.

**Doctorate** – A degree granted after four years of doctoral studies once a student has completed a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. Most commonly designated as PhD.

**Equal Consideration Date** – The deadline to apply to competitive programs if you want your application to be considered on an equal basis with all other applicants. After this date, your application will only be considered if there is still room in the program.

**Financial Aid Office** - Where you go to get your student funding, apply for scholarships, bursaries and awards, and pay tuition.

**Graduate Program** – Program leading towards a master's degree.

**Humanities** – Human related programs. (e.g. history, sociology, political science, international development studies, religion, law, human geography, languages, literature and philosophy)

**Learning-Management System** - A software application that collects, delivers, and tracks educational resources, class materials, assignments, student work, and more.

**Liberal Arts** – Non-technical studies conducted in the humanities and social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

**Major** – In universities, the specialization in one discipline, usually decided during the second year of study.

**Master's Degree** – Once a student has completed a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree can be completed. They vary in length from 1 – 2 years.

**Minor** – A secondary academic focus pursued as a supplement or accent to a major program.

**Post-Secondary** – Relating to the education of individuals after completion of secondary school (high school) requirements.

**Prerequisite** – Requirement(s) that must be met before students may register in a particular course.

**Private Institution** – An institution that relies primarily on non-governmental sources of financial support.

**Public Institution** – An institution that receives the majority of funding through the government.

**Reading Week** – A week off of classes meant for students to catch up on reading and work.

**Red Seal** - A national program providing a standardized endorsement for specific occupations/trades and allowing for labour mobility across provincial/territorial boundaries. Upon successful completion of a Red Seal exam, a Red Seal endorsement is added to the provincial credential.



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**Scholarship** – A monetary award given on the basis of academic standing and various criteria.

**Social Sciences** – Studies related to social groups, more specifically human society such as: economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology.

**Technical Institute** – A post-secondary institution offering technical and applied training.

**Transcript** – Official academic records detailing place and time of study, courses completed, and grades achieved.

**Undergraduate Program** – Program leading towards a bachelor's degree, or a first degree at university.

**University** – A post-secondary institution that offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

**University Transfer** – Credit programs of study, usually in arts, social sciences, and science courses, which are transferable toward degree programs at universities.

**Viewbook** – An annual publication, issued each year by post-secondary institutions, to provide information regarding academic programs, admission requirements, and related topics.

## Remote Learning Terms

In 2020, schools across the world had to adapt to moving almost all learning to take place remotely, responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. This changed the way that many schools and students approach learning. Some of these changes will likely stay even when the pandemic is over. Through this, some terms are now used often and are around to stay.

**Asynchronous** - A type of learning where students work on material independently, at a time and location of their choosing.

**Cohort** - A fixed group of students that will be in the school together at a given time within a hybrid learning model, so as to allow for social distancing and mitigate risk of transmission of illness.

**Concurrent** - Concurrent classes are delivered both in person and online at the same time by one faculty member. Some students will physically be in the classroom, while others will join remotely via video technology in each classroom.

**Hybrid** - Hybrid, or blended, learning models combine in-person learning (i.e., students in a physical classroom) with remote learning (students learning from home, joining classes via Zoom or other platforms). Classes may occur synchronously or asynchronously.

**In-Person Learning** - The model of learning where all students and faculty are in the school building together.

**Online Learning** - The model of learning where all students and faculty are learning remotely via a digital platform, such as Zoom.

**Remote Learning** - Any learning that occurs from home, with students or teachers joining classes virtually.

**Synchronous** - A type of learning that happens together at the same time, with students and teachers all involved in the lesson, whether that means fully online, fully in person, or a hybrid of the two.