

## Curricular Definitions

### Academic Units

**Center:** A unit formed for purposes of linkage and visibility, focused on a theme, issue, or set of skills. A center will frequently be interdisciplinary in nature. A center does not offer degree programs but may, on rare occasions, offer a course or courses.

**Institute:** A unit similar in nature to a center, as defined above, but which is degree-granting. Typically, an institute will be interdisciplinary. Course work for a degree offered through an institute may include some offered by the institute itself but will be primarily comprised of courses in various disciplines/departments already in existence.

**School:** A single-discipline unit which has an identification in the public mind beyond that of a department. Schools may have significant subdivisions such that students will apply for admission and take degrees through the subdivision rather than through the central unit as a whole.

### Classes

**Lecture:** A class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time in which the faculty member of record presents a prepared, instructional discourse on the subject matter germane to the course as described in the University catalog. In a lecture class, the faculty member presenting the discourse assumes the dominant instructional role; exchange of discourse with the student audience is minimal.

**Lab or Discussion:** A class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time in which students, under the supervision of a faculty member or assistant of record, test, analyze, demonstrate, discuss, clarify, etc., in a controlled environment the theories, techniques, methods, etc., presented in a complementary class or classes. The subject matter of the course is described in the University catalog.

**Lecture/Lab/Discussion:** A class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time in which the features of lecture and lab are merged or in which the features of lecture and discussion are merged during the class meeting. The subject matter of the course is described in the University catalog.

**Seminar:** A class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time in which a supervising faculty member of record and a small (usually) group of students engaged in advanced study and research exchange information and hold discussions pertinent to the study/research conducted by the students. The subject matter of the course is described in the University catalog.

**Independent Study:** Enrollment in an appropriately designated, variable credit course for a specific plan of study, authorized and supervised by a designated, consenting faculty member. Normally, it is a project designed to allow a student (or a small group of students) to investigate areas of interest not within the scope of a regular course or to obtain an educational experience outside that normally offered by a regular course. A contract is developed between a faculty member and a student to obtain the experience or to complete the research on a specific topic. In an independent study class, the student works *independently* on a plan of study, not in a class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time such as a lecture, lab, lecture/lab/discussion, or seminar. The meeting hours for the class are “arranged.”

**Supervision or Practicum:**

Supervised field experience: Actual practice, often away from the college campus, in a practical or service situation. In a teacher education program, it is usually conducted in schools.

Supervised work experience, co-op, or internship: A sponsored learning experience in an occupational area for persons preparing for full-time employment, conducted in connection with a course of study, where the students spend a part of their time on an actual job in a school, business, or industry.

Practicum:

- 1) a course of instruction aimed at closely relating the study of theory and practical experience, both usually carried on simultaneously;
- 2) an academic exercise consisting of study and practical work; and
- 3) supervised experience in counseling or a similar activity through such procedures as role-playing, recorded interviews, abstraction analysis, and supervisory evaluation with interviewing techniques.

The emphasis in this type of class is to provide supervised practice or experience with the matter studied in other types of academic classes. The meeting hours for the class are usually “arranged.”

**Studio:** A class scheduled to meet regularly in a specific location at a specific time in which a supervising faculty member of record introduces and supervises hands-on projects. The class may include elements of lecture, discussion, lab, and seminar, but is distinct from them in the overriding emphasis on individual creative activity and experiential learning on the part of enrolled students.