

Davidson-isms: Learning the Lingo

- **Academic Access & Disability Services**

The AADR Office serves two primary functions. First, we provide academic support to students through individual coaching, workshops and small-group work, enabling them to master effective academic strategies and best utilize available resources. Second, we also support students with disabilities and work with other offices and departments across the campus to provide equal access to the college's services, programs, and activities so students may, as independently as possible, meet the demands of college life. Appointments can be made by following this [link](#).

- **Academic Calendar**

The academic calendar lists pertinent dates related to academic programming, opening and closing dates, and other official information. The calendar is listed in the College Catalog and posted on the College website.

- **Academic Regulations**

Academic regulations are established by the Davidson College faculty to ensure the academic integrity of the college. It is your responsibility as a student to be familiar with all academic regulations of the college. It is important to note that academic regulations are subject to change.

- **Add/drop**

Students can change their schedule by adding or dropping classes in Banner Self-Service.

- **Bachelor Degrees**

Davidson College offers two bachelor's degrees, the Bachelor of Arts (A.B), and the Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

- **Baccalaureate**

A farewell sermon made to graduating seniors, families and friends in conjunction with commencement ceremonies.

- **Banner Self-Service**

A portal for students to access a variety of academic necessities includes WebTree, Add/drop, Degree Works, and schedules.

- **Center for Teaching and Learning**

The John Crosland Jr. Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is a place where experts in technology, library sciences, and education work together to support the work of Davidson scholars—from first-year students to tenured professors.

- **Commencement**

Commencement is the formal name of the graduation ceremony held each May.

- **Convocation**

Convocation is a formal ceremony celebrating the achievements of students and faculty in the spring, usually April. Regalia is worn.

- **Course Catalog**

The College Catalog is an important tool for understanding the College's academic and

administrative policies, procedures and academic programs. It describes all academic programs and associated policies and provides a list of courses required in each major as well as complete descriptions of all courses. The Catalog is available on the website.

- **Credit Hour**

Davidson courses are worth 1 credit=4 semester hours. A regular course load is 4 courses per semester. Each course is 12 hours of work per week of both in class and homework. 4 classes is equal to 48 of work per week.

- **Curriculum**

Composed of those classes prescribed or outlined by an institution for completion of a program of study leading to a degree or certificate. Students should note that it is the combination of core courses, major/major-related courses, and elective courses that leads to the required number of credit hours needed for graduation.

Degree Works

An audit system that tracks progress towards degree completion. Students, advisers and department chairs can see completed coursework and remaining requirements. Located in Banner Self-Service

- **Federal Work-study**

Federal work-study is a federally funded program in which students are hired in campus jobs as part of their financial aid package. Students must complete the FAFSA and be qualified to take part in this work-study program. Some institutional work-study jobs are available that are unrelated to financial aid qualification. See Handshake for listings.

- **FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records. Although FERPA gives parents certain rights regarding their student's educational records, it is important for parents to realize that these rights transfer to students once they turn eighteen or attend a school beyond high school

- **Final Exams**

Final exams are given during the final week of the semester. The dates and times are different from regular class time and are listed in the course schedule and the College website.

- **First Generation Students**

Someone whose parent(s) does not have a 4year college degree. (As defined by Admissions)

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The FAFSA is an application form administered by the U.S. Department of Education and used to determine a family's eligibility for federal student aid programs and, in some cases, institutional, state and other private aid sources. A FAFSA must be completed and filed each year a student attends college.

- **Grade Point Average (GPA)**
 Sometimes referred to as the Cumulative Grade Point Average, the GPA is a calculation of students' overall grade average on a 4-point scale. A full explanation of the GPA is found in the College Catalog.
- **Help Desk/Technology & Innovation**
 A department of staff that provide support services and resources for computer software, printing and copying, email, facilities and business applications.
- **Holistic Adviser**
 Davidson's Holistic Advising Program provides first- and second-year students holistic, ongoing, formal support in all aspects of the Davidson experience—academic, co-curricular/extra-curricular, social and career—up to the time they declare their academic majors.
- **Honor Code**
 A traditional pledge students make granting access to unique freedoms and trust among professors and students
- **Ice breaker**
 A short game or activity as a way to get to know you
- **Incomplete Courses**
 The instructor gives a grade of “I” (Incomplete) to a student who for a valid reason is unable to complete a substantial portion of the work of the course. The determination of a “valid reason” rests with the instructor, but examples of valid reasons include a serious health, family, or personal problem arising late in the semester.
- **International Students**
 International students are welcome at Davidson College. All foreign-born students who are not United States citizens are classified as international students.
- **Liberal Arts**
 The liberal arts represents the traditional set of courses and affirms the continuing values of a broad range of study in the humanities, the sciences, and the arts.
- **Major**
 Students select a major during their first or second year of study that serves as the focus of study in a degree program.
- **Major Advisor**
 A faculty member chosen when a student declares their major within that field of study to help that student complete their degree requirements and pursue interests within the field.
- **Meal Plan**
 A meal plan is a pre-paid account for student meals while at college. All residential students are required to take part in one of the meal plans offered.

- **Minor**
Students are not required to complete a minor but may elect to do so as a secondary concentration in a specific subject or career field.
- **Personal Leave**
There may be instances in which it is in a student's best interest to spend some time away from the college. Personal leaves are approved by the Dean of Students office, and a student must communicate with one of the deans before departing
- **Pre-Req**
Pre-requisites are courses that students are required to take prior to registering for a particular course.
- **Pre- College credit**
- Credits earned while in high school, before enrolling at Davidson. This could be AP credit, IB credit, dual enrollment or other courses taken as a high school student for college credit. Contact the Registrar's office if you have pre-college credit to apply at Davidson.
- **Pre-professional Programs**
Plans of study that coexist with academic majors to prepare students for post baccalaureate healthcare and other professional fields.
- **RLO**
Residence Life Office
- **RA and HC**
Student leaders are Hall Counselors (HCs) for first-year students and Resident Advisors (RAs) for upper-class students who are assigned to residence halls and apartment buildings. The Resident Life Office (RLO) professional staff selects, trains, and supervises the RAs and HCs. These student leaders are responsible for building communities on their floors and within their buildings, they provide support, role-model behaviors, connect students to campus resources, respond to disciplinary matters within the residence halls/apartments and assist with conflict management.
- **Registrar**
A College official responsible for creating and maintaining permanent academic records, maintaining student files, and forwarding official student transcripts to employers and schools upon written student requests.
- **Registration/WebTree**
Davidson students enter their course preferences into WebTree, a web based application that generates a schedule based on the preferences of all students, in an organized, fair way.
- **Semester**
Generally speaking, a semester is one half of an academic year. Students take 4 courses in 1 semester

- **Student Government Association (SGA)**
 The official voice of the students, the SGA is a student elected body that represents the interests of all students while promoting and assisting Davidson College clubs, groups, and organizations.
- **Student ID**
 Students are issued a photo identification card (CatCard) that includes a randomly generated identification number (801 number). It is required to enter academic buildings and to utilize dining services.
- **Syllabus**
 The syllabus is an outline or overview of the course distributed by the instructor at the beginning of the course. The syllabus often includes course requirements, objectives, textbook information, contact information for the instructor, and a schedule of assignments and topics. Students are always encouraged to read the syllabus carefully and refer to it often throughout the course.
- **Transcript**
 The official record of a student's academic experience and includes a list of all courses attempted and the grade earned in each. The official transcript is maintained by the Registrar. If you need a transcript visit Studentclearinghouse.org.
- **Tuition**
 Tuition refers to the amount of money charged for instruction and does not include charges associated with room and board.
- **Ways of Knowing**
 Often referred to as "general education," The Ways of Knowing Requirements invite students to explore the fundamental question, "How do I know what I know?" All students, regardless of major field, are required to complete the requirements described in the College Catalog.
- **Withdrawal**
 Withdrawal refers to the process of formally removing a student from a single class or from all classes for a semester. Established procedures must be followed as stated in the College Catalog. Withdrawals may have financial implications depending upon the date(s).
- **3-2 Program**
 Partnering with Columbia University in New York and Washington University in St. Louis, Davidson offers cooperative dual degree engineering programs.