

# ACADEMIC TERMINOLOGY

## The Language of Program & Requirement Descriptions

The following sections of the catalog use terms and numbering systems which may be unfamiliar to a new student. The most common of these, printed in bold, are explained here.

The catalog refers to academic programs, academic departments and academic disciplines. The same name may refer to all three. For example, history can refer to the major in history (a program), to the Department of History, or to the general academic discipline of history. On the other hand, some names apply only to a program, department or discipline.

**College:** an administrative division of the university that houses a number of academic departments. Humboldt State University has four colleges: the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; the College of Extended Education & Global Engagement; the College of Natural Resources & Sciences; and the College of Professional Studies.

**Concentration:** a significant subdivision of a major that appears on a student's transcript, but not on the diploma.

**Department:** an organizational division that offers and administers academic programs. The name of the department usually matches the program it administers, but not always. For example, the Political Science major is offered by the Department of Politics.

**Discipline:** a conventional academic perspective or area of study. Chemistry, psychology, and marine biology, for example, are disciplines at Humboldt State University.

**Emphasis:** a subdivision of a concentration or major that does not appear on a student's transcript or diploma.

**Major:** Primary area of study.

**Program:** a set of requirements met by certain courses. Programs may be associated with one or more academic departments.

## Course Numbering System

001-099	pre-baccalaureate courses
100-199	lower division, appropriate for freshmen
100-109	courses satisfying lower division general education (GE) requirements in breadth areas A, B, C, D & E. Exception: world language courses numbered 105.
200-299	courses appropriately taken in the sophomore year
200-209	courses satisfying lower division GE requirements in breadth areas A, B, C, D & E.
300-399	courses appropriately taken in the junior year
300-309	upper division courses meeting GE requirements in breadth areas B, C & D
400-499	courses appropriately taken in the senior year.
500-599	graduate courses which may be taken by qualified seniors on an elective basis
600-699	graduate level, open only to graduate students
700-799	credential/licensure courses

**Reserved Numbers** 180, 280, 380, 480, 580, 680, and 780 indicate special topics courses on current issues or specialized subjects offered on an as needed basis. Course descriptions are available at [registrar.humboldt.edu/class-schedule](http://registrar.humboldt.edu/class-schedule).

**Letter suffixes** are used to distinguish between courses assigned the same number and may also indicate a sequence, course attribute, or component. Courses lasting two or more terms have sequential numbers, not letter suffixes.

Letters B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, N, O, P, Q, T, U and V are used to distinguish between courses assigned the same number (for example, ART 104B Ancient Art and ART 104C Medieval Art). Courses may or may not be part of a sequence.

The letter S indicates that a course includes a service learning component.

Letters W, X, Y and Z are used for a sequence of courses that meet a general education requirement. Limitations: the entire sequence must be completed before any units will count toward the requirement, and

not all the units earned for the sequence will count toward the requirement, only the number specified (usually 3 units).

Activity, discussion, laboratory, additional for major, and research courses associated with a lecture will have the same number as the appropriate lecture course, plus one of the following letter suffixes A, D, L, M, and R, respectively. Courses may be offered independently from the lecture.

## Other Terminology

**Class Sections** distinguish parts of a course. For example, the laboratory section of a course may be distinct from the lecture section. More commonly, the term distinguishes between multiple offerings of a single course. For example, to say "there are four sections of American History offered this fall", means the course is offered at four different times that semester, possibly in four different locations or with different instructors.

**Lower Division** courses are appropriately taken in the freshman and sophomore year to make reasonable and orderly progress toward satisfying baccalaureate degree requirements.

**Units** indicate how much time a course will meet and the minimum out-of-class student work required. The amounts vary with type of instruction:

- 1 unit of lecture or discussion = 50 minutes of classroom time and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester.
- 1 unit of activity = 100 minutes of classroom time and a minimum of one hour of out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester.
- 1 unit of laboratory = 150 minutes of classroom time per week. Most of the student work is done in lab.

**Upper Division** courses are appropriately taken in the junior and senior year to make reasonable and orderly progress toward satisfying baccalaureate degree requirements.

**Variable Unit Courses.** Some courses may be taken for different unit amounts. Different requirements exist for completion of different unit amounts.