

Learning the Lingo

College has a vocabulary of its own. This list is to help as you begin to navigate the college experience.

Creighton Terms

- Beadle:** a student who serves as the RSP advisor's peer advisor (usually a sophomore)
- Blue credentials/password:** refers to your NetID and password; allows you to access many different online systems, like BlueLine, NEST, CUmail, etc.
- BlueLine:** online system for students to access most of their course materials, though use by professors varies
- Clink:** slang for CenturyLink Center, where Creighton men's basketball plays
- CUmail:** your Creighton email account
- Dining Dollars:** money connected to your meal plan (amount varies based on meal plan selected); remaining money at the end of a semester will be lost
- Decurion:** an older student (typically a junior or senior) who acts as an advisor for freshmen and assists the RSP advisor with their section
- iJay:** the world's only student-run Apple store, located in the Harper Center
- JayBuck\$:** money that can be loaded onto your student ID and used for any on-campus transactions, like laundry, printing, bookstore, or food; money rolls over semester to semester; functions similarly to a debit card
- JayClean:** student-run 24-hour dry cleaning services, located on the first floor of the Harper Center
- KFC (Kiewit Fitness Center):** gym in the Skutt Student Center
- KFC Spine:** long hallway in the KFC that overlooks the track and basketball courts
- Magis Core:** Creighton's core curriculum, focused on life's big questions and developing skills for today's careers
- The mall:** the brick pathway that runs through Creighton's campus
- NEST:** portal for students to manage many transactions (class registration, transcripts, billing); stands for Nearly Every Student Transaction
- NetID:** ID number for any member of the Creighton community (students, faculty, staff); NetID@creighton.edu is your email address
- Neutral zone:** common area on a residence hall floor, with couches and sometimes games
- Ras:** slang for Rasmussen Gym, on the east end of campus
- RSP (Ratio Studiorum Program):** the advising program for first-year students; includes a 1-credit orientation class; means 'plan of study' in Latin, as students work on their four-year plan in this course
- RSP advisor:** a first-year student's advisor and instructor for RSP class
- Student portal:** admissions portal used to complete applications and receive information; essentially a personalized website; access it at choose.creighton.edu/status

General College Terms

- Attendance policy:** varies by professor; there is no university policy on excused/unexcused absences
- Catalog:** the university's official summary of degree requirements, programs of study, and academic policies
- Co-curricular:** a program/activity that may not specifically be academic, but complements a classroom experience

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College: could refer to the entire institution (if they only have one college), but generally refers to a specific school; Creighton has three undergraduate colleges - College of Arts & Sciences, Heider College of Business, College of Nursing

Core curriculum: selection of required courses that all students in a college or institution must take

Credit hour: a unit of measuring educational credit (most classes are 3 credit hours)

Dead week: traditionally, the week before finals; meant to give students time to prepare for finals

Degree requirements: non-negotiable requirements a student must meet in order to earn a degree

Drop/add: the period of time at the very beginning of a semester when students can change their course schedules; there is no penalty for this and these do not appear on a transcript

Elective: an optional course for students; some may be part of a major, minor, or pre-professional track; counts toward total number of credits for degree requirements

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): a form completed annually to determine eligibility for student financial aid; not required, but highly encouraged; can be sent to multiple colleges at once

FERPA (Federal Education Rights and Policy Act): the law governing how colleges protect and share student information; begins when a student enrolls

Finals week: the last week of the term; the only scheduled classes are the actual final exams

Good standing: typically refers to students above a 2.0 GPA and without disciplinary issues

Grade point average (GPA): a summary of a student's academic success in numbers (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)

Greek system/Greek life: student organizations (chapters) focused on social engagement and service to the community; sororities and fraternities

Honor societies: like sororities and fraternities, use Greek letters, but membership is based on academic achievement and scholarship; co-educational

Major: a student's area of specialization, usually consisting of 33-45 credit hours in a specific subject (Creighton students cannot formally declare majors until the end of freshman year; most declare during sophomore year)

Matriculation: the act of enrolling in a college or degree program

Midterms: exams offered at the midpoint of each semester (sometimes the first test in a course)

Prerequisites: courses that must be completed prior to taking another course (or declaring a major)

Registration: the process through which students sign up for their classes each term

Registration PIN: the access code a student needs to register for classes; changes each semester and available from the advisor (one way Creighton ensures students are in the correct classes to graduate on time)

Syllabus: the professor's plan for the course, including course expectations, required readings, and assignments

Transfer/transient credit: courses students take at other universities that count toward degree requirements at Creighton

Work-study: financial aid awarded to a student in which the student receives pay for hours worked; functions just like any on-campus job; awarded through filing the FAFSA

Withdrawal: the process by which a student officially leaves a class during the term (and after the drop/add deadline); the grade on the transcript shows a 'W' and there is a deadline for students to request a 'W'