



Academic Terminology

- **Academic Program**
 - o A major-degree combination

- **Carolina Core**
 - o The Carolina Core provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
 - o It provides the foundation for subsequent specialized study and for lifelong learning.
 - o Students will complete a minimum of 31 credit hours to satisfy Core requirements

- **Carolina Core Components (“Components”)**
 - o the 10 goals of the Carolina Core represent a universal portfolio of learning outcomes delivered through a variety of courses

- **Carolina Core Codes (“Codes”)**
 - o Three letter acronyms to designate the Carolina Core Components

- **Carolina Core Requirements (“Requirements”)**
 - o Each of the ten components of the Carolina Core has specific Learning Outcomes and Credit Hour Requirements.
 - o Credit hours will range between 0 – 7 Credits depending on selection of either stand-alone or overlay approved courses to meet Core components.

- **Carolina Core Foundational Courses (“Foundational Courses”)**
 - o Approved courses that span the liberal arts and sciences to meet at least one of the ten Core components.
 - o These courses apply across disciplines and are intended for students to take early in the undergraduate experience.
 - o Foundational courses may be taken as stand-alone or overlay approved courses.

- **Carolina Core Lower Division (“Lower Division”)**
 - o Comprises the 10 components and learning outcomes of the Core, including both Stand-Alone and Overlay Approved components

- **Carolina Core Stand-Alone Course (“Stand-Alones”)**
 - o An approved foundational course which will meet one of the ten Carolina Core components

- **Carolina Core Overlay Approved Course (“Overlays”)**
 - o An overlay course is a single, three credit hour foundational course that satisfies two Carolina Core components.
 - o Overlay courses are not required in the Carolina Core but offer the option of meeting two Carolina Core components with a single course.
 - o A maximum of two overlay approved courses may be used to meet Carolina Core components.

- **Carolina Core Integrative Course (“Integrative Course”)**

- Near the end of the *program of study*, a student will take an integrative course in which selected Core learning outcomes are integrated into discipline-specific study.
 - This major-specific coursework meets the Carolina Core requirement for an Integrative Course.
 - Since the Integrative Course is already required in the student's major, no additional hours are added to Carolina Core requirements.
- **Cognate**
 - A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern in one or more disciplines different from the *major*. *Cognates* may be *program requirements* within the *program of study* if they are counted in the required hours to graduate. Some *programs of study* may not include a *cognate*. Undergraduate *cognates* require a minimum of 12 credit hours in advanced-level courses related to, but outside of the *major*. *Cognates* are variable according to what is appropriate as determined by the student and the major advisor. Thus, *cognates* do not appear on either the transcripts or the diplomas.
- **College Requirements**
 - Foundational requirements for all majors within the college. Some *programs of study* may require students to take specific courses that meet both *college requirements* and *Carolina Core requirements*. These courses are *prescribed* Carolina Core courses.
- **Concentration**
 - A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern within the *major*. They are called areas of emphasis (AOE) by the Registrar's Office and are also known as options, emphases, tracks, (sub)fields or specializations. Undergraduate *concentrations* consist of no more than 18 credit hours. *Concentrations* appear on the transcripts, but not the diplomas.
- **Corequisite**
 - Corequisites are courses (being taken concurrently or successfully completed with a minimum grade of D, unless otherwise defined) that identify the skills and knowledge needed for enrollment in certain courses.
- **Critical Course**
 - A course with a deadline for completion or which may delay graduation because it serves as a prerequisite in a series of courses.
- **Curriculum Change**
 - A change to the student's program of study, including major (and college), minor, concentration, and attribute.
- **Degree (proposed definition)**
 - A diploma or title, conferred by the University, awarded to students upon successful completion of a *program of study*.
 - **Degree.** An award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for successful completion of a program of studies. Source: IPEDS
- **Electives**

- Courses open to student selection or preference that are applicable to the *program of study* and are counted in the required hours to graduate. *Electives* are *program requirements* within the *program of study*.
- **Major**
 - A program of study in a discipline that leads to a degree in that distinct specialty area at a particular level of instruction.
- **Major Courses**
 - Specific required courses in the distinct specialty area.
- **Major Electives**
 - Specific recommended courses that support the distinct specialty area.
- **Major Map**
 - A *major map* is a layout of required courses in a given *program of study*, including *progression requirements* and suggested course sequence to ensure a clear path to graduation. Course availability may affect the ability to follow this exact sequence.
 - *Major maps* are designed to assist students in planning their *program of study* and in comparing different *programs of study*.
- **Major Prerequisite**
 - A required prior condition in advance of taking major courses. Major prerequisites may consist of courses, academic standing, class standing, program admissions requirements, GPA, number of credit hours, etc.
- **Minor**
 - A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern in one discipline that is different from the *major*. *Minors* can be *program requirements* within the *program of study* if they are counted in the required hours to graduate. Some *programs of study* may not include a minor. Undergraduate *minors* normally require a minimum of 18 credit hours of prescribed courses. Undergraduate *minors* appear on transcripts, but not on the diplomas.
- **Prerequisite**
 - Prerequisites are courses (successfully completed with a minimum grade of D, unless otherwise defined) that identify the skills and knowledge needed before enrollment in certain courses.
- **Prescribed courses**
 - Specific required courses that fulfill a component of the *program of study*.
- **Program of Study**
 - A prescribed sequence of learning components comprising an academic program. Learning components consist of *Carolina Core*, *College Requirements*, *Program Requirements* and *Major Requirements* that lead to a degree.
- **Program Requirements**
 - Requirements specific to an academic program that are not major courses (these courses are not required by every major in a college).

- These courses may comprise *electives*, *minor* requirements, *cognate* requirements, or *supporting courses* that are intended as part of the *program of study*.
- **Progression Requirements**
 - Integral elements of a *program of study* that establish the minimum required level of achievement for a student to continue and may include a deadline for completion. Progression requirements may consist of a minimum GPA and completion of specific courses with minimum grades.
- **Restriction**
 - Conditions that limit the enrollment in certain courses to a select group of students.
 - Restrictions may include: students of a certain academic standing, students of a certain class standing (junior, senior, etc.); students admitted to a certain college, academic program, degree, minor, or certificate; students belonging to a specific student group (Honors, Trio Scholars, etc.); students required to meet with an instructor, director, or obtain department permission.
- **Supporting Courses**
 - Courses related to and required in preparation for the major. *Supporting courses* are *program requirements* within the *program of study*.
- **Thesis/Dissertation/Capstone**
 - A culminating research experience in the distinct specialty area.

<http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/acaf200.pdf>

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