

IER Glossary

Cross-Listed Courses: Cross-listed course sections are two or more sections that are labeled differently in the course catalog but are taught in the same room (if face2face) at the same time by the same Instructor(s).

CIP Codes: “Classification of Instructional Programs” is a taxonomy of academic programs developed by the US Department of Education

Reaffirmation: The action of reasserting or confirming something. evidence that the institution meets the Criteria for Accreditation and Federal Compliance Requirements.

University Accreditation- The recognition from an accrediting agency that an institution maintains a certain level of educational standards. Able to award baccalaureate, masters, doctorate, and professional levels.

Terminal Degree: The highest degree that can be awarded in a specific academic or professional track

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB): Created by the Texas Legislature in 1965 to represent the highest authority in the state in matters of public higher education.

SCH: semester credit hour

Workload: The number of hours calculated per course in reference to faculty pay

Contact Hour: A faculty’s interaction with students.

Core complete: Students who complete the core curriculum as an undergraduate. Students who complete the approved core curriculum at any Texas public institution of higher education must be accepted as core complete at any other Texas public institution.

Classification: This is how students are classified based on their number of college hours completed, (i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, senior).

Course level: Courses identify as either upper division or lower division.

Transfer: The movement of a student from one institution to another with some level of coursework completed, and a title attached to a student for reporting purposes. (i.e., transfer student).

Transfer Credit: The acceptance of prior learning represented in course units or credits applied and articulated on a student's academic transcript

(Course) Articulation: The process of comparing the content of courses that are transferred between postsecondary institutions such as colleges or universities

Instructor of Record: Faculty member who provides direct instruction for the course.

Tenured: full-time faculty

Non-Tenure Track: faculty that either teach part-time or faculty that teach full-time but not tenure-track

Power BI: A service that allows you to create interactive reports with beautiful visualizations to better display and represent collected data for enhanced insight.

Reportcaster: application within WebFocus that centralizes the scheduling and distribution of reports. User can set parameters of the schedule, when the report will run and the format of output.

WebFocus: A tool that retrieves information from Banner to create custom reports.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCoC): The body for accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states.

AEFIS: multi-use tool for university accreditation, assessment, and evaluations.

Compliance: the state of meeting rules or standards of higher education accreditors and the Texas A&M System

Assessment: The annual process of program- and self-evaluation by gathering evidence of reached goals, milestones, etc. to gauge improvement and growth. This is an ongoing cycle that must be accomplished for university assessment and accreditation as well.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS): The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System is a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the National Center for Education Statistics, a part of the Institute for Education Sciences within the United States Department of Education

Data governance: The process and practice of implemented policies and procedures for the effective use of data within an organization.

Common Data Set (CDS): The Common Data Set (CDS) initiative is a collaborative effort among data providers in the higher education community and publishers as represented by the College Board, Peterson's, and U.S. News & World Report. The combined goal of this collaboration is to improve the quality and accuracy of information provided to all involved in a student's transition into higher education, as well as to reduce the reporting burden on data providers.

External Review: A comprehensive and unbiased review from an outside source to confirm quality and effectiveness of a program, unit, services, operations, etc.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): Part of the SACS reaffirmation process is the development of a focused course of action that addresses an issue related to enhancing student learning.

Self-study: A self-review done periodically to assess all aspects of a program, department, or unit.

Student learning outcome (SLO): A combination of outcomes or goals assigned to each course, which are to be met by the students to confirm knowledge of the subject matter.

Academic program: A program that consists of courses and/or activities organized to award degrees or certificates on completion of met student learning outcomes.

Census: date set by the university that marks the end of the adding and/or dropping of courses for the semester

Transfer student: A student entering the reporting institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., undergraduate, graduate). The student may transfer with or without credit.

Graduation Rate (100% of Time): The percentage of students who graduate within the expected timeframe. The timeframe will vary based on program length and the number of accumulated credit hours the student has already earned toward graduation on entering the institution.

Student Types: Each student is given a special designation to distinguish them into groups. Entering students (new FTIC, new transfers, etc.) are given a student type on the semester of entry. Once the semester of entry has concluded, the student is given a new student type to indicate they are no longer "new".

Freshmen Vs. FTIC: Freshmen is a designation that describes the progress the student has made within their academic program (i.e., still within their first year). On the other hand, FTIC is a designation indicating that the student has not previously attended an institution of higher education.

Note that because students can earn college credits before graduation from high school that not all FTIC are Freshmen, some enter as Sophomores. Also, due to the fact that students can transfer with less than 30 semester credit hours, not all Freshmen are FTIC.

First Time in College (FTIC): A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Also includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term, and students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).

Freshmen: A student who has completed less than the equivalent of 1 full year of undergraduate work; that is, less than 30 semester hours.

References

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCoC)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

Common Data Set (CDS)

Texas A&M-Textarkana (TAMUT)

