

**ACADEMIC ADVISOR** – University staff member that works with students to select the appropriate courses, review course and graduation requirements, discuss academic goals, and assist with any academic problems students may encounter.

**ACADEMIC PROBATION** - All colleges require students to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain in school. Any student not maintaining satisfactory progress toward his/her educational objectives will be placed on probation for a semester.

**ACT and SAT** - Acronyms for the American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Both tests are designed to measure a student's level of knowledge in basic areas such as math, science, English and social studies. Colleges may require the results of either the ACT or SAT as part of the admissions process.

**CATALOG:** Book containing requirements for all degree programs.

**COMMODORE CARD:** Card used for identification, access to residence halls, academic buildings and sporting events. May also be used as a debit card for meal plans and other purchases both on and off campus.

**COMMONVU:** Orientation program that offers roughly a week of activities and events for first-year students to introduce them to the living-learning communities of their houses and The Ingram Commons, the faculties and academic classes of their schools, the norms and values of the Vanderbilt community, upperclass students and their organizations, and Nashville.

**CREDIT HOUR:** College credit hours are calculated based on the time students spend in class and studying. One credit hour usually represents three total hours of work per week over a 15-week semester.

**ELECTIVE:** Courses that students are allowed to choose based on their own interests.

**EXPERIENCE VANDERBILT:** Student-run initiative to increase access to extracurricular programs for undergraduate students eligible for financial aid. Need-based funding is provided for participation in university-sponsored events and organizations, such as service trips, club sports and Greek life.

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Filed annually to determine eligibility for financial aid.

**FEES** - Fees are additional charges not included in the tuition. Fees may be charged to cover the cost of materials, campus resources, health insurance, etc.

**FERPA:** Family Educational Rights Privacy Act. Federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records.

**FINANCIAL AID:** Any type of aid offered to students to be used for college-related expenses.

**FULL-TIME:** Students who are enrolled for at least 12 credit hours.

**GRANTS:** Funds awarded to qualified students that do not have to be repaid.

**HIPPA:** Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Federal legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for medical information.

**INTERNSHIP:** Temporary position that provides additional learning experiences outside the classroom.

**MAJOR/MINOR:** A major is a student's chosen field of study. It usually requires the successful completion of a specified number of credit hours. A minor is designated as a specific number of credit hours in a secondary field of study.

**MATRICULATE:** To be enrolled at a college or university.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Time each week that is required of college instructors to allow students to visit and ask questions about the material.

**OPPORTUNITY VANDERBILT:** Initiative that supports the university's commitment to replace need-based undergraduate student loans with grants and scholarships.

**REGISTRAR:** Office that maintains student educational records.

**STUDENT ACCOUNTS:** The primary function of the Student Accounts office is to issue bills, receive payments and provide information to help understand the aspects of a Vanderbilt account.

**SYLLABUS:** An outline of the important information about a course. Written by the professor or instructor, it usually includes important dates, assignments, expectations and policies specific to that course.

**TRANSCRIPT:** Official academic student record showing courses taken and grades received.

**WORK STUDY:** The Federal Work Study Program (FWS) is a government-subsidized student employment program designed to assist students in financing their post-secondary education. To be eligible for FWS funds, you must demonstrate financial need every year by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).