

University Vocabulary

Q: What is the difference between application and registration?

To be admitted to UFV, the first step involves filling out an application form. Once your application has been received and you have been admitted to the university, you then select your courses and register for them during the registration period.

Note: Each student is assigned a specific date and time for when they can access the registration system.

Q: How long is a semester?

UFV operates on a trimester system, which means we have three, four-month semesters per year.

Semester:	Begins:	Ends:
Fall	September	December
Winter	January	April
Summer	May	August

There are additional options to the summer semester above. “Early session” runs from May to June, and “Late Session” runs from July to August.

Q: What is a credit?

A credit is a unit of measurement used in a variety of ways:

- UFV charges tuition on each university-level credit taken in a given semester.
 - Per credit cost x Number of credits
- UFV assigns a credit-value to each individual course. The amount of credits assigned can be an indicator of the workload / time required for the particular course.
 - Ex: PSYC 101: 3 credits (3 hour lecture) **vs.** BIO 111: 5 credits (3 hour lecture **and** 2 hour lab)
- UFV uses credits to award the following credentials (as long as all requirements are met):
 - Certificate (typically 30 credits)
 - Diploma (typically 60 credits)
 - Degree (typically 120 credits)

Note: Course numbers that begin with “0” do not count for credit towards university-level programs (i.e. MATH 085).

Q: What is a prerequisite?

A prerequisite is the preliminary requirement that must be met before a certain course can be taken. In the example below, BIO 111 must be taken before BIO 112.

BIO 112

5 credits

Introductory Biology II

Prerequisite(s): BIO 111

This course continues the study begun in BIO 111 of the principles of biology. This course includes a study of the interaction of organisms with one another and their physical environment as they relate to the anatomy and physiology of plant and animal systems, the diversity of life on the planet and evolution.

Q: What is a co-requisite?

A co-requisite is a course which needs to be taken at the same time as another course. In the example below, in order for a student to register for Visual Arts (VA) 404, they would also need to register for VA 403 in the same semester.

VA 404

3 credits

Senior Studio II

Prerequisite(s): VA 402

Corequisite(s): VA 403

This course facilitates independent critical practices based on conceptual development, appropriate research and appropriate methodologies needed to produce competent works of art. Students work independently on two self motivated studio projects.

Q: What is the calendar?

UFV's calendar contains information on admission to the university, policies and regulations, as well as a full listing of programs offered, including their entrance requirements, and all of the various course descriptions. The calendar is available on-line or in print.

Q: What information is available in a course description?

Please refer to the example below. A course description states the course acronym (CRIM), course number (100), the amount of credits it is worth (3 credits), the course title (Introduction to Criminology), the prerequisite(s) required (none), and a short description of what the course will entail.

CRIM 100

3 credits

Introduction to Criminology

Prerequisite(s): None

This course examines the historical evolution of criminological thought and criminology as a science and a profession. The structure, content, theoretical paradigms, and practical applications of the discipline are investigated as well as some of its terminology (e.g., crime, deviance, criminal, victim, rehabilitation, and treatment).

All course descriptions are available for viewing in the UFV calendar.

Q: What are upgrading courses?

Upgrading courses start with the number 0 (i.e. ENGL 099, CHEM 083). UFV offers upgrading courses in English, Math and Sciences. Taking upgrading courses can help students build their fundamental skills in a given subject.

Q: What are lower level courses?

Lower level courses are courses numbered 100 to 299.

Q: What are upper level courses?

Upper level courses are courses numbered 300 to 499.

Q: What is a program?

A program consists of a collection of approved courses and requirements. Programs vary in length (i.e. a program requiring 20 courses will take longer to complete than a program requiring 10 courses).

Q: What is a Major?

A Major is your area of specialization within a degree program (i.e. Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History).

Q: What is a Minor?

A Minor can be taken as a secondary area of specialization in a degree program (i.e. Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History and a Minor in Anthropology).

Q: What are Extended Minors?

For students who wish to prepare themselves in two areas rather than focusing on one Major, they can choose two Extended Minors (i.e. Bachelor of Arts with Extended Minors in Psychology and English).

Q: What is an elective?

An elective is an optional course that is not individually specific to your program. If you were majoring in Biology, for example, and took a Psychology (PSYC) course, that PSYC course would be considered an elective.

Q: What is an Undergraduate Degree?

An undergraduate degree is a program that usually requires 120 credits for completion. An undergraduate degree is also referred to as a "degree", a "bachelor's degree", or a "four-year program".

Q: What is a Master's Degree?

Students working towards this designation (ex. MA, MSc, etc) are called "graduate students". Usually, this degree is earned after a bachelor's degree and precedes a doctoral degree (PhD).

Q: What is a Faculty?

A Faculty is a division within a university comprising one subject area, or a number of related subject areas. At UFV, we have the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Professional Studies, Faculty of Trades, and the Faculty of Access and Continuing Studies.

Q: What is a Department?

Each Faculty houses a number of different Departments. The Faculty of Arts, for example, is comprised of the Psychology Department, the History Department, the Visual Arts Department, etc. The Faculty of Science, on the other hand, houses the Biology Department, the Chemistry Department, the Physics Department, and so on.

Q: What is a transcript?

A transcript is a copy of a student's academic marks.

Q: What is transfer credit?

Transfer credit is credit assigned for courses successfully completed at the post secondary level taken at another institution. If you completed courses here and then transferred to SFU, for instance, SFU would evaluate your transcript and award transfer credits for equivalent coursework (consult www.bctransferguide.ca for further information). Similarly, if you began at UBC and then came to UFV, we would evaluate your UBC transcript and award transfer credits for all equivalent coursework.