

# UNIVERSITY VOCABULARY

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## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APPLYING AND REGISTERING?

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To become a student at UFV, the first step is applying (submitting an application) to a program. Once your application has been processed and you are admitted to UFV, you then plan your courses and register for them during the registration period. Each student is assigned a specific date and time when registration opens for them (available through myUFV).

- Applying to UFV: [www.ufv.ca/admissions/admissions/apply/](http://www.ufv.ca/admissions/admissions/apply/)
- Registering for courses: [www.ufv.ca/advising/registration/](http://www.ufv.ca/advising/registration/)

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## HOW LONG IS A SEMESTER?

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SEMESTER	BEGINS	ENDS
Fall	September	December
Winter	January	April
Summer	May	August

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

Note: *There are additional condensed options to the summer semester including: “Early Session” (May to June) and “Late Session” (July to August)*

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## WHAT IS A CREDIT?

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

- UFV assigns a credit value to each individual course. The amount of credits assigned is an indicator of the workload/time required for the particular course per week. Eg: PSYC 101 = 3 credits (three hour lecture) and BIO 111 = 5 credits (three hour lecture and three hour lab)
- UFV charges tuition on each university-level credit taken in a semester.  
(Per credit cost) x (Number of credits) = Tuition Cost

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## WHAT IS THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR?

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UFV’s calendar contains official requirements on admission to the university, policies and regulations, a full listing of programs offered, entrance requirements, and all course descriptions. The calendar is online: [www.ufv.ca/calendar/current](http://www.ufv.ca/calendar/current).

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## WHAT IS A PROGRAM?

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A program consists of a collection of approved courses and requirements that must be met. Programs vary in length:

- Certificates are typically a minimum of 30 credits.
- Diplomas are typically a minimum of 60 credits.
- Degrees are typically a minimum of 120 credits (a degree may also be referred to as an “undergraduate degree”, “bachelor’s degree”, or “four-year program”).

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## WHAT IS A MAJOR, EXTENDED MINOR, AND MINOR?

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- A major is the main subject area of focus within a degree program (typically around 50 credits).
- An extended minor allows students to choose two subject areas of focus (typically around 35 credits for each).
- A minor can be taken as a secondary area of focus (typically around 25 credits).

Note: *Majors, extended minors, and minors are only applicable to degree programs (min 120 credits). Specific requirements must be met, as indicated in the Academic Calendar (on the right side drop-down menu “Select Area of Study”): [www.ufv.ca/calendar/current](http://www.ufv.ca/calendar/current).*

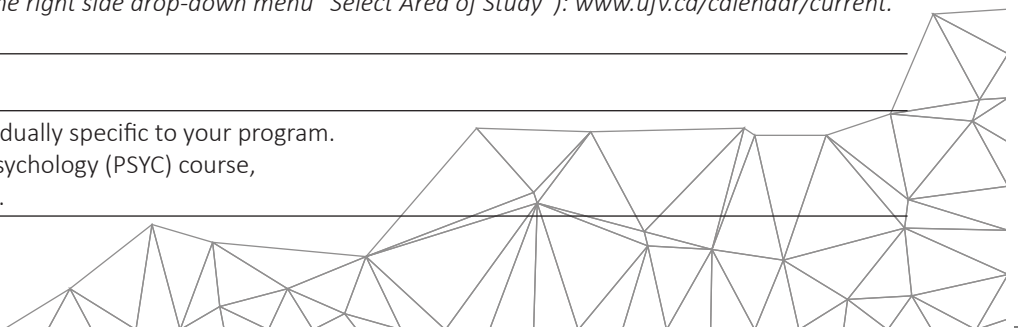
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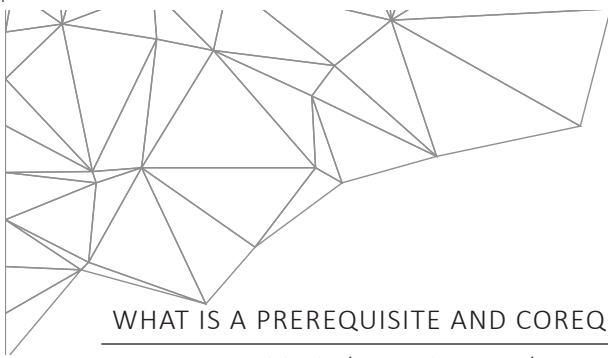
## WHAT IS AN ELECTIVE?

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An elective is an optional course that is not individually specific to your program.

For example, if you major in Biology and take a Psychology (PSYC) course, the PSYC course would be considered an elective.





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## WHAT IS A PREREQUISITE AND COREQUISITE?

- A prerequisite is the requirement that must be met before a certain course can be taken. The minimum grade required is a C- unless another grade is stated.
- A corequisite is a course which must be taken either before or at the same time as another course.
- Below any prerequisites and corequisites, there is a course description. See example:

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.		

Note: All prerequisites, corequisites, and course descriptions are available for viewing in the UFV calendar (on the right side drop-down menu "Select Courses"): [www.ufv.ca/calendar/current](http://www.ufv.ca/calendar/current)

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## WHAT ARE LOWER-LEVEL AND UPPER-LEVEL COURSES?

Lower-level courses are courses numbered 100 to 299. Upper-level courses are courses numbered 300 to 499. Students generally start with lower-level courses and progress to upper-levels.

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## WHAT ARE UPGRADING COURSES?

Upgrading courses start with the number "0" (eg. ENGL 099, CHEM 083). UFV offers upgrading courses in English, Math and Sciences. Taking upgrading courses can help students build fundamental skills in a given subject, or meet prerequisites or entrance requirements.

Note: Course numbers that begin with "0" do not count for credit towards university-level programs (eg. MATH 085).

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## WHAT IS A TRANSCRIPT?

A transcript is an official record of a student's academic grades.

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## WHAT IS TRANSFER CREDIT?

Transfer credit is credit assigned for courses successfully completed at the post-secondary level taken at another institution. If you complete courses at UFV and then transfer to SFU, for instance, SFU would evaluate your transcript and award transfer credits for equivalent coursework. Similarly, if you began at UBC and then came to UFV, UFV would evaluate your UBC transcript and award transfer credits for all equivalent coursework. Consult [www.bctransferguide.ca](http://www.bctransferguide.ca) for further information on how courses transfer.

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## WHAT ARE FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS?

- 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 Health Studies, Faculty of Applied and Technical Studies, the Faculty of Access and Continuing Education, etc.
- Each faculty houses a number of different departments. The Faculty of Arts, for example, is comprised of the Psychology department, the History department, etc. The Faculty of Science, on the other hand, houses the Biology department, the Chemistry department, etc.

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THE ADVISING CENTRE IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU! Visit us online at [www.ufv.ca/advising](http://www.ufv.ca/advising) for further information or to book an appointment. To speak with someone in person, phone 604.864.4674 (Abbotsford) or 604.795.2808 (Chilliwack).

