

Glossary of Terms for First Generation Students and Parents

- **Academic Skills Center (ASC)**- See Center for Student Success and Access Services
- **Academic Term/Semester** - An academic term refers to the period of time in which the academic year is broken up. Students will take courses that reside within either fall, spring, or summer term.
- **Access Services** – This office provides support and resources for students with learning differences, or students who need additional support to have access to campus and classes. You might use these services if you have a history of educational support such as an IEP or 504 plan or have mental or physical challenges, a chronic condition or health challenges.
- **Business Office** - This office is responsible for collecting all tuition and fees related to enrollment at the university. Deadlines are important and failing to meet them could have financial or enrollment consequences for students. Located in the Administration Building. (link: <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-offices/business-affairs/business-office/>)
- **Career-Study Off Campus (CSOC)** - an opportunity for students to gain work experience off campus and receive course credit (link to page

<https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/career-services/internships/csoc/>)

- **Center for Student Success & Access Services (CSSAS)**– The Center for Student Success & Access Services provides students with resources to promote academic success. These include peer tutors and organization skills, success coaching, services for first generation students and students in transition. This is also the office to contact if you have a diagnosed disability and require accommodations.
- **Commencement** - At Austin College, this is the ceremony of graduation.
- **Cost of Attendance**- Includes tuition and fees, room and board, other living expenses, cost of books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and miscellaneous expenses. <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-offices/business-affairs/business-office/>
- **CREATE** - helps administer opportunities for Undergraduate Research (UR) for the students of Austin College. There are several different ways for you to get involved with research: via the classroom or independently, with a group or individual research projects. Each project will have a mentoring faculty member to guide you through the process.
- **Direct PLUS Loan**- Also known as Parent PLUS Loan and grad PLUS Loan. This is a federal loan that graduate students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay for college.
- **Dismissal** - involuntary removal from the college due to academic or behavioral issues.

- **Dropping Classes** - students can drop courses through the end of the 7th week of the term, receive no grade for the course with no penalty, and the course is not listed on the students' transcripts. (Policy: <https://bulletin.austincollege.edu/academic-program/academic-regulations/>)
- **FAFSA**- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA opens October 1 and must be completed each year in order to receive need-based aid from the government, such as the Pell Grant or work-study awards. (link for FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)
- **Federal Work Study** - Part-time work offered by the university as part of your financial aid package from the federal government. Must complete FAFSA in order to be eligible. (link: <https://www.austincollege.edu/admission/financial-aid/work-study/>)
- **Final Exams** - Most courses end their academic term with a comprehensive exam or project. These take place the last days of the term and classes do not meet during this time.
- **Financial Aid Office** - the office on campus that is responsible for preparing and communicating information on financial aid, located in Wortham Center. (link for financial aid office: <https://www.austincollege.edu/admission/financial-aid/>)
- **Financial Aid Package** - the total amount of aid (federal and non-federal) a student receives from the college within an academic year. In order to obtain your financial aid package, a FAFSA must be completed each year (see FAFSA).
- **Grants** - a need-based form of financial aid given to college students to help pay for college expenses. Can be funded through the federal

government (e.g., Pell Grant), the state, or institution. Unlike loans, grants do not need to be repaid.

- **January Term (Jan Term)** - an abbreviated academic term that allows students to experience unique opportunities, including travel abroad. (link to Jan Term: <https://www.austincollege.edu/academics/janterm/>)
- **Medical Withdraw** - voluntary removal from the college when a student's physical or psychological condition significantly impairs their ability to function successfully or safely as a student and the condition prevents a student from completing the semester.
- **Mentor** - faculty member mentors meet each semester and guide students in selecting courses, choosing your major and minor, and completing overall degree plans. Mentoring also includes discussing your career interests, aspirations, and goal management. These steps will include coursework, internships, study abroad, research projects, and summer experiences. (link: <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-offices/academic-affairs/faculty/faculty-mentor/>)
- **Merit Based Scholarships** - scholarships that are awarded to students demonstrating academic, athletic, or artistic achievement. Unlike loans, scholarships do not need to be repaid.
- **Office Hours**- Specific times that faculty are available in their office to meet with students. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities, usually no appointment is needed.
- **Office of Student Success** – See Center for Student Success & Access Services

- **Registrar** - The Registrar is the office responsible for maintaining all academic records at the university. (link: <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-offices/academic-affairs/registrar/>)
- **Satisfactory / Deficient / Unsatisfactory (S/D/U) Grading System** - Students may elect no more than a total of four courses during their academic career to be graded on an S/D/U basis. Transfer students may elect a proportionate number of courses to be graded on the S/D/U basis during their academic career as determined by the number of terms attended.
- **Scarborough Center for Writing** - Offers free writing assistance for assignments, peer review, workshops, and professional endeavors.
- **Subsidized Loan** - loans available for undergraduate students with financial need. These loans do not accrue interest while the student is attending at least half-time or during deferment periods.
- **Title IX Coordinator-** The individual responsible for handling complaints, reports, allegations, and information about sex- and gender-based discrimination (link for Title IX: <https://www.austincollege.edu/campus-life/sexual-misconduct/>)
- **Unsubsidized Loan** - loan available for both undergraduate and graduate students and is not based on financial need. These loans accrue interest during in-school, deferment, and grace periods.
- **Withdrawal from College** - Student voluntarily withdraws from the College and is removed from all academic courses. Students will be required to apply for readmission in the future.

- **Withdrawing from Class**- From the 8th week of class until the 10th week students may withdraw from the class. This will be indicated by a “W” on the student’s transcript, but there will be no GPA penalty. Financial Aid should be consulted before dropping a class during this time.