

Acronyms in Higher Ed

Most professions have their own jargon; education is no exception. The list of acronyms below is not inclusive, but it does contain many generic educational terms. This list will be updated periodically.

Acronym	Title	Description
AA	Associate of Arts	An academic degree granted after satisfactory completion of a two-year program in the arts.
AACRAO	American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers	A non-profit voluntary professional association founded in 1910. The mission is to provide leadership in policy initiation, interpretation and implementation in the global community.
ACT	American College Test	Formerly known as the American College Testing Program. College entrance exam that assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	Gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion.
ALC	Alternative Learning Center	Individualized alternative high school educational program designed to meet the needs of students.
AMCAS	American Medical College Application Service	A non-profit, centralized application processing service for applicants to the first-year entering classes at participating U.S. medical schools.
AP	Advanced Placement	Administered through the College Board to offer high school course descriptions equated to college courses and correlated to AP examinations in those subjects. High schools provide the courses as part of their curriculum to eligible students.
APR	Academic Progress Rate	NCAA term; a real-time assessment of a team's academic performance.

Acronym	Title	Description
ASCAP	American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers	Organization known as a collecting society that protects intellectual property, ensuring that music which is broadcast, commercially recorded, or otherwise used for profit, pays a fee to compensate the creators of that music.
BA	Bachelor of Arts	A degree conferred by a four-year college, university, or professional school generally associated with science, technology and some business and social science subjects.
BOE	Board of Education	Each school district is to be governed by a number of school directors prescribed by law. The board possesses all powers delegated to a board of education or to a school district by law, and performs all duties required by law.
BS	Bachelor of Science	A degree conferred by a four-year college, university, or professional school generally associated with humanities, arts, language and social science subjects.
CB	College Board	A national, non-profit membership association dedicated to preparing, inspiring and connecting students to college and opportunity.
CEEB Code	College Entrance Exam Board Code	Common codes assigned by the College Board to identify all educational institutions including high schools and their addresses.
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	Codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government.
CIP	Classification of Instructional Programs	Code numbers that represent subject areas.
CLEP	College Level Examination Program	A national examination that students may take to receive college credit for selected courses.
CTP	Credit Toward Program	Number of credits applicable to a student's program of study.

Acronym	Title	Description
EAP	Employee Assistance Program	In today's fast-paced world, juggling work and your personal life-and all the associated demands and pressures-can feel overwhelming. Program offering confidential location for employees and their families to receive assistance with personal matters.
Ed.D.	Doctor of Education Degree	A post-baccalaureate degree awarded upon completion of at least three years of full-time specialized study, together with a major research contribution to the field of education that demonstrates independence as a scholar.
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	The agency of the United States Government that enforces the federal employment discrimination laws. Information about discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
EFC	Estimated Family Contribution	The amount of financial support a family is expected to contribute toward a child's college education. This amount is part of the formula used by the federal government to determine financial aid eligibility using the FAFSA form.
ESL	English as a Second Language	Usually refers to developmental-level instruction in English language skills for non-native speakers.
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid	The federal application that a student must complete to receive federal, state, or institutional aid. This form has to be completed each academic year by the student, in order to be eligible to receive financial aid.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	A federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. The Act applies to all institutions that receive federal funding and applies at the point an applicant becomes a student.
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	Act to provide for public access to certain public records of public bodies; to permit certain fees; to prescribe powers and duties of certain public officers and public bodies; to provide remedies and penalties; to repeal certain acts and parts of acts.

Acronym	Title	Description
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	A common standard for measuring enrollment in K-12 and higher education. Statistics are often reported to higher levels of government and accrediting organizations in terms of student FTEs.
FTIAC	First Time In Any College	Any freshman who has completed less than 12 credits at another higher education institution, excluding credits earned through dual enrollment, advanced placement, or proficiency testing such as CLEP.
FY	Fiscal Year	The twelve month period on which the budget is planned. The State fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following year. The federal fiscal year begins October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year.
FYES	Fiscal Year Equated Student	The representation of 31 semester credit hours per year or 46.5 quarter terms hours per year.
GED	General Education Diploma	A series of five tests that individuals who did not complete high school may take through their state education system to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate.
GLBA	Gramm Leach Bliley Act	A comprehensive law requiring financial institutions to protect the security, integrity, and confidentiality of consumer information.
GMAT	Graduate Management Admission Test	A standardized test for determining aptitude in business management studies.
GPA	Grade Point Average	The numerical value assigned to a student's scholastic average, computed by dividing the total grade points by the total credit hours attempted.
GRE	Graduate Record Examination	Commonly required of applicants to graduate schools in fields other than business, law, and medicine. This test measures analytical writing, verbal, and quantitative skills.

Acronym	Title	Description
HACA	Homestead Agricultural Credit Aid	Amount certified for your county to be deducted by you from your levy before certification of your levy. The levy amount certified will be used to calculate the initial tax rate for your county.
HEGIS	Higher Education General Information Survey	Designed to provide comprehensive information on various aspects of postsecondary education in the United States and its territories and Department of Defense schools outside the United States.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	A set of rules to be followed by health plans, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers.
HPA	Honor Point Average	A calculation of quality points divided by credit hours still used by some institutions. Very much like the GPA.
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act	The nation's law that works to improve results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.
IPEDS	Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System	Established as the core postsecondary education data collection program for the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES). It is a system of surveys designed to collect data from all primary providers of postsecondary education
LD	Learning Disability	A disorder that affects people's ability to either interpret what they see and hear or to link information from different parts of the brain. These limitations are characterized by difficulty in reading, writing, and arithmetic.
LEP	Limited English Proficient	A common way to refer to ESL students in the primary and secondary schools.
LSAT	Law School Admissions Test	A standardized test developed by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC). The LSAT is designed to predict a candidate's potential for success during the first year of law school.
MA	Master of Arts	An academic degree usually awarded for completion of a postgraduate course of one to three years in duration generally associated with humanities, arts, language and social science subjects.

Acronym	Title	Description
MACRAO	Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers	A non-profit organization established to provide, by means of annual conferences and otherwise, for the exchanges of information concerning problems of interest to its members, and to contribute to the advancement of education in Michigan.
MCAT	Medical College Admissions Test	A standardized test required for admission to medical school. The MCAT is offered twice a year, in April and August. It has 4 sections: verbal reasoning, biological sciences, physical sciences and a writing sample.
MCCA	Michigan Community College Association	A non-profit organization that represents the 28 public community colleges in Michigan.
MCCAD	Michigan Community College Admissions Directors	A non-profit organization that represents the 28 public community colleges in Michigan.
MELAB	Michigan English Language Assessment Battery	A secure test battery that evaluates advanced level English language competence of adult non-native speakers of English
MS	Master of Science	An academic degree usually awarded for completion of a postgraduate course of one to three years in duration generally associated with humanities, arts, language and social science subjects.
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	An international transatlantic partnership consisting of various European states, the United States and Canada, which was designed through cooperation, consultation and collective defense to maintain peace and promote stability throughout Europe.
NCA	North Central Association	A non-governmental, voluntary organization that accredits more than 9,000 public and private schools in 19 states, the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Dependents' Schools worldwide.
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association	A voluntary association of about 1200 institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals that organizes the athletics programs of many colleges and universities in the United States.

Acronym	Title	Description
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Act	Attempts to improve the performance of primary and secondary schools by increasing the standards of accountability for states, school districts and school and provides parents with more flexibility in choosing which schools their children will attend.
NCURA	National Council of University Research Administrators	An organization of individuals involved in the administration of sponsored programs at colleges, universities, and teaching hospitals.
NHS	National Honor Society	Organization whose intent is to recognize middle and high school students in the United States. The students must show achievement in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.
NSCH	National Student Clearinghouse	A central repository of student enrollment information. It's purpose is to provide the required enrollment information to the servicers and guarantors of the Federal Student Loan Programs.
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy	A degree which is higher than an Honours or Master's degree, involving at least two and a half years of supervised research resulting in a thesis. PhD graduates may call themselves "Dr".
PHARMCAS	Pharmacy College Application Service	A centralized application service for applicants applying to colleges and schools of pharmacy.
PT	Part Time	An expression which can apply to either the qualification or the student.
SAR	Student Aid Report	The federal "output document" printed by a FAFSA processor and mailed to the student. The student's eligibility for aid is indicated by the EFC printed on the front of the SAR.
SAT	Scholastic Assessment Test or Scholastic Aptitude Test	Standardized test frequently used by American colleges and universities to aid in the selection of incoming freshmen.

Acronym	Title	Description
SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System	A networked computer system set up in the United States to track information on non-immigrant international and foreign exchange students attending school in the U.S. The SEVIS system requires schools to maintain attendance records for foreign students.
STW	School To Work	An umbrella term for many activities, experiences and opportunities that prepare students for the world of work.
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language	An exam used to evaluate the English proficiency of people for whom English is not their native language.
TSA	Tax Sheltered Annuity	Tax deferred annuity retirement plan available to employees of public schools and colleges, and certain non-profit hospitals, charitable, religious, scientific and educational organizations.
VA	Department of Veteran Affairs	Established on March 15, 1989, succeeding the Veterans Administration. It is responsible for providing federal benefits to veterans and their families.
VI	Visually Impaired	A physical condition relating to the ability to see.