

Definitions Related to Programs and Courses

Approved by Curriculum Committee on May 26, 2016

The core definition is bold-faced. Elaborations and clarifications may follow each definition.

Terms related to programs of study

- **Field of Study – the content area that is the focus of a program of study.**

It is synonymous with the title of a program of study not including the degree type. For example, “Native Environmental Science” is the field of study for both the Bachelor of Science in Native Environmental Science and for the Associate of Arts and Sciences in Native Environmental Science programs of study.

- **Dual Degree – The awarding of two bachelor’s or two Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees.**

NWIC does not award dual degrees. As such, students may not earn two bachelor’s (BA or BS) degrees or two Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees (AAS). Students may, however, earn multiple Associate of Technical Arts (ATA), Associate of Applied Science Transfer (AAS-T), Associate of Science Transfer (AS-T) degrees or Certificates. Students may also earn an AAS and a bachelor’s degree in addition to other types of associate degrees.

- **Option – a designation for alternate pathways through a program of study.**

Bachelor’s programs at NWIC offer separate options for students who enter the program at the freshman versus the junior level.

- **Concentration – a specific set of courses in a program of study designed to focus student coursework within a broader field of study.**

Concentrations often focus coursework on developing skills in an established sub-field, such as tribal casino management or tribal entrepreneurship within the Tribal Governance and Business Management program. While each program of study has a single set of core course requirements it may have two or more concentrations. Concentrations normally specify a way to fulfil a program’s elective requirements and students may be able to choose not to declare a concentration and instead select their own set of elective courses. It is possible for a program of study to have more than one level of concentrations. Students in the BSNE interdisciplinary concentration, for example, have their own individual concentrations. Associate-level and bachelor-level programs of study may have concentrations but are not required to do so. Students declare concentrations and the title of the concentration appears on each student’s transcripts.

The following terms are not used at NWIC:

- Major – not used at NWIC. When the term major is referenced in Jenzabar, it denotes a field of study offered at NWIC, such as “Native Studies Leadership,” and does not necessarily have the same the same meaning as at other colleges and universities.
- Minor – term is not used at NWIC.
- Emphasis - term is not used at NWIC. Historically, it was synonymous with concentration.
- Track (as in a track within a program of study) - term is not used at NWIC.

Terms related to courses

- **Module – a subpart of a course that, when all modules are completed, constitute completion of the entire course.**

Modularization of a course must be approved by the Curriculum Committee using a course creation or course revision form. Modules may be taken in any order or they may be required to be taken in sequential order as indicated on the course creation or course revision form. Examples – MATH 98A for 3 credit and MATH 98B for 2 credits together are equivalent to MATH 98 for 5 credits. Modules are listed as separate courses within the college's electronic catalog. This use of the term module is different from an instructional module taught within a particular class.

- **Prerequisite – a course that a student must successfully complete prior to enrolling in the given course.**

In certain cases, successful completion means passing the course and in other cases it means that the course must be passed with a minimum grade, such as a C or better, as identified on the course creation or revision form. Assessment testing by the college or course instructor may, for certain courses, satisfy prerequisites. Prerequisites with minimum grade thresholds or testing requirements must be indicated on the course creation or revision form and be approved by the Curriculum Committee.

- **Corequisite – a course that a student must enroll in either concurrently or have successfully completed prior to enrolling in the given course.** Corequisites are not normally identified at NWIC.

- **Requirement – a condition for enrolling in a course that is not a prerequisite or a corequisite.**

Examples include that a student must have achieved a particular class standing (e.g., junior standing), or be taken the first quarter a student declares a program of study.

- **Permission of instructor – a condition for enrolling in a course that is listed in the college catalog only if a course always requires permission of the instructor in order to enroll.**

Permission of instructor is not to be listed as a condition for enrolling in a course if the course has identified course prerequisites or requirements. For example, "prerequisite: ENGL 102 or permission of instructor" would be changed to "prerequisite: ENGL 102" as described in the NWIC Catalog Style Guide since the instructor of record of a specific class section has the ability to allow students to enroll in that class section even if some or all of the prerequisites or requirements have not been met. The Dean of Academics and Distance Learning and the appropriate department chair also have this ability. Only the instructor of the class section (or Dean of Academics and Distance Learning or appropriate department chair) may grant permission for a student to enroll in a class with a "permission of instructor" designation.

The following term is not used at NWIC:

- Cross-listing