



CU Denver International Student Glossary

A Quick Reference Guide for International Students



Office of International Affairs



Welcome

Welcome to CU Denver! We are excited to have you join our global community.

As an international student, you may encounter new university and immigration terms throughout your journey, from applying for admission to registering for classes and maintaining your student status. This glossary is designed to help you better understand common terminology used by International Admissions, International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS), and other campus offices.

Use this guide as a quick reference whenever you come across an unfamiliar term. Many entries include links to helpful CU Denver resources where you can find additional information.

We hope this glossary helps you feel more confident as you navigate your experience at CU Denver. Welcome, and best wishes for a successful academic journey!

Use the table of contents below to jump to a section or browse the glossary alphabetically.

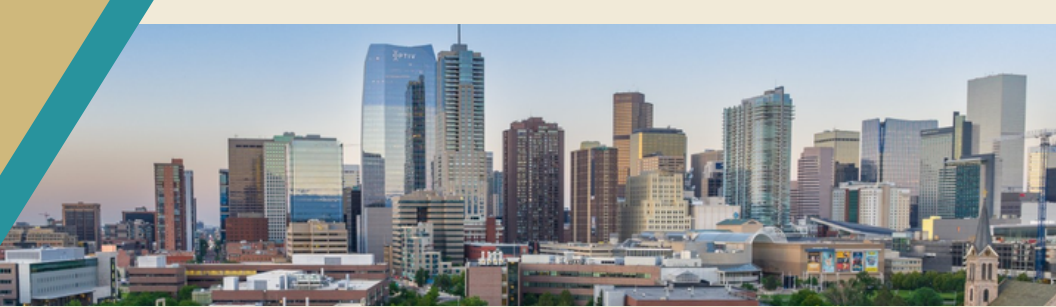


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ACADEMICS

Academic Advisor

An Academic Advisor helps current students choose classes, understand degree requirements, and stay on track toward graduation. They can also answer questions about your degree plan and connect you with campus resources.

Related Resource: [Academic Advising](#)

Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar lists important university dates, including the first day of classes, registration periods, add/drop deadlines, holidays, withdrawal deadlines, and final exams. Checking the calendar regularly can help you avoid missing important deadlines.

Related Resource: [Academic Calendar](#)

Credit Hour

A credit hour is a unit used to measure the amount of coursework for a class. Most undergraduate courses are worth three credit hours, and international students must maintain the required number of credits each semester to remain in status.

GPA (Grade Point Average)

Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is a numerical measure of your academic performance based on the grades you earn in your courses. Some scholarships, academic programs, and immigration benefits may require students to maintain a minimum GPA.

Major

Your major is your primary field of study and determines the courses required to complete your degree. Examples include Biology, Business Administration, and Computer Science.

Office Hours

Office hours are scheduled times when instructors are available to answer questions, discuss course material, and provide academic support. Students are encouraged to attend office hours whenever they need assistance.



Prerequisite

A prerequisite is a course or requirement that must be completed before enrolling in another course. Prerequisites help ensure students have the background knowledge needed for more advanced classes.

Registrar

The Registrar's Office manages student records, course registration, enrollment verification, transcripts, grading, and graduation processing. Contact the Registrar for questions about your academic record or registration.

Related Resource: [Registrar's Office](#)

Registration

Registration is the process of selecting and enrolling in classes for an upcoming semester. Students should meet with their academic advisor before registering to ensure they stay on track for graduation.

Related Resource: [Registration Process](#)

Syllabus

A syllabus is a document provided by your instructor that outlines course expectations, grading policies, assignments, important dates, and classroom policies. Review your syllabus carefully at the beginning of each course.

Transcript

A transcript is your official academic record and includes the courses you have completed, grades earned, and degrees awarded. Students may need official transcripts when applying for employment, graduate school, or other academic programs.

Related Resource: Official Transcripts



ADMISSIONS

Accreditation

Accreditation is a process that recognizes whether a college or university meets established standards of educational quality. CU Denver evaluates credentials from recognized institutions.

Admission Decision

The official notification informing you whether your application has been admitted, denied, waitlisted, or requires additional information.

Related Resource: [After You Apply](#)

Admissions Advisor

An Admissions Advisor helps prospective students through the application process and can answer questions about requirements, deadlines, credential evaluations, and application status.

Related Resource: [International Admissions Advisors](#)

Application Fee

A non-refundable fee required to submit your application for admission. Some applicants may qualify for an application fee waiver.

Related Resource: [Application Fee Waiver](#)

Application Status

The current stage of your application, such as submitted, incomplete, under review, or admitted. You can monitor your application status through your application portal.

Related Resource: [Application Status](#)

Certified English Translation

If your academic documents are not in English, you may be required to submit a certified English translation along with the original document.

Related Resource: [Required Application Documents](#)



Conditional Admission

An offer of admission that requires you to meet specific conditions before beginning your program. Conditions may include completing prerequisite courses or meeting English language proficiency requirements.

Conferred Degree

A conferred degree is a degree that has been officially awarded by your institution. Your transcript or degree certificate should show the conferred or awarded date if required for admission.

Credential Evaluation

Credential evaluation is the process of reviewing international academic records to determine their U.S. educational equivalency. This helps the university assess whether you meet the academic requirements for admission.

Related Resource: [International Admissions](#)

Degree Certificate

A degree certificate is an official document issued by your institution confirming that you have completed a degree program. Some applicants may be required to submit a copy during the admissions process.

English Language Proficiency (ELP)

English language proficiency demonstrates that you have the English skills needed to succeed in your academic program. Applicants may satisfy this requirement through approved English proficiency exams, qualifying academic coursework, or another approved method, depending on the program. If you are submitting exam scores, official results must be sent directly from the testing agency or provided according to CU Denver's official document requirements.

Accepted Exams: TOEFL iBT, IELTS Academic, Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic, and the Duolingo English Test (DET).

Related Resource: [English Language Proficiency Requirements](#)



External Credential Evaluation

An external credential evaluation is a review of your international academic credentials completed by an independent credential evaluation agency. External evaluations are required for graduate applicants to programs on the Anschutz Medical Campus. CU Denver accepts evaluations completed by World Education Services (WES), Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), or another member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

Important Note: External credential evaluations are **required for graduate applicants to programs on the Anschutz Medical Campus.**

Final Transcript

A final transcript is issued after all coursework has been completed and any degree has been officially awarded. Some applicants may be required to submit a final transcript before enrollment.

In-House Credential Evaluation

An in-house credential evaluation is a review of your international academic credentials completed by CU Denver's International Admissions team. This service is available for undergraduate applicants to CU Denver programs. Our credential evaluation specialists review your academic records to determine their U.S. educational equivalency and whether you meet the university's admission requirements.

Important Note: In-house credential evaluations **are required for undergraduate applicants to CU Denver programs.**

In-Progress Transcript

An in-progress transcript includes courses that are currently being completed. International Admissions may request a final transcript once your coursework or degree is complete.



Missing Documents or Information

Your application may be marked as incomplete if required documents or information have not been received or do not meet university requirements. Submit all requested items as soon as possible to avoid delays in the review of your application.

Related Resource: [Application Status](#)

Official Documents

Official documents are required after admission. They are documents that meet CU Denver's requirements for authenticity. Academic documents, such as transcripts and degree certificates, are considered official when they are sent directly from the issuing institution to CU Denver or when applicants present official documents in person for credential evaluation. During a document verification appointment, one of our credential evaluation specialists will review the original documents and determine whether they can be accepted as official copies.

Related Resource: [Required Application Documents](#)

Program Deadline

The program deadline is the final date by which all required application materials must be submitted to be considered for admission. Deadlines vary by program and entry term.

Statement of Purpose

A Statement of Purpose is an essay describing your academic background, professional goals, and reasons for applying to a specific program. Many graduate programs require this document as part of the application.

Related Resource: [Statement of Purpose Guidelines](#)



Transcript

A transcript is a record of the courses you have completed, grades you have earned, and degrees awarded. International Admissions uses your transcript to evaluate your academic qualifications for admission.

U.S. Equivalency

U.S. equivalency is the U.S. educational level assigned to an international credential during the credential evaluation process. It helps determine whether an applicant meets the academic requirements for admission.



EMPLOYMENT

Career Center

The Career Center helps students explore career options, prepare resumes and cover letters, practice interviewing, and search for internships and employment opportunities.

Related Resource: [Career Center](#)

Internship

An internship provides hands-on work experience related to your field of study. International students must receive the appropriate work authorization before beginning most internships.

Related Resource: [Career Center](#)

On-Campus Employment

Eligible F-1 students may work on campus while maintaining their immigration status.

Important: Review employment eligibility requirements before accepting a position.

Related Resource: [Employment for International Students](#)

Off-Campus Employment

Employment outside the university generally requires prior authorization for F-1 students, such as CPT or OPT.

Important: Do not begin off-campus employment until you have received the appropriate authorization.

Related Resource: [Employment for International Students](#)



IMMIGRATION

U.S. Visa

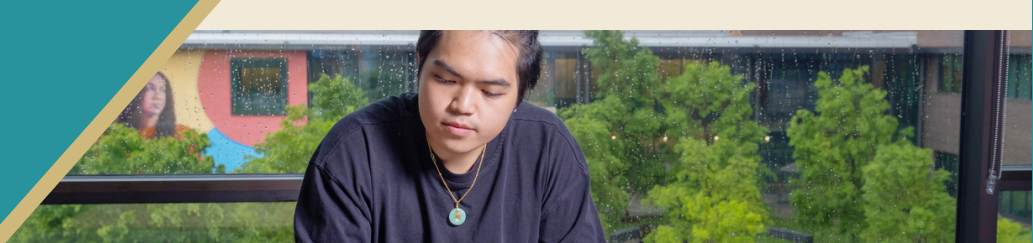
A U.S. visa is a travel document placed in your passport by a U.S. embassy or consulate that allows you to request entry into the United States. Your visa may expire while you are in the U.S., but you can usually remain in the country as long as you maintain your immigration status.

Related Resource: [Visa Information](#)

International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)

ISSS supports international students by providing immigration advising, issuing I-20s, processing immigration requests, and assisting with employment authorization and travel questions.

Related Resource: [ISSS Website](#)



TUITION AND FINANCES

Cost of Attendance

The Cost of Attendance is the estimated total cost of attending CU Denver for one academic year. It includes tuition and fees, housing, food, books, transportation, health insurance, and other educational expenses.

Related Resource: [Cost of Attendance](#)

Financial Aid

Financial aid includes scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs that may help students pay for college. Eligibility for financial aid varies depending on your citizenship or immigration status.

Related Resource: [Financial Aid](#)

International Student Scholarship

CU Denver offers scholarship opportunities specifically for eligible international undergraduate students. Scholarship requirements and application deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.

Related Resource: [International Undergraduate Student Scholarships](#)

Student Account

Your student account displays tuition and fee charges, payments, financial aid, refunds, and your current account balance. Students can access their student account through CU-SIS.

Related Resource: [Student Account](#)

Tuition & Fees

Tuition and fees are the charges associated with attending CU Denver and vary by program, residency status, and enrollment level. Students should review current tuition rates before registering for classes.

Related Resource: [Tuition & Fees](#)



CAMPUS RESOURCES

Academic Colleges & Schools

Note: The titles of each office, department, and college are hyperlinked to their official CU Denver webpages. Click the title to learn more or access additional resources.

[Business School](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in accounting, business analytics, economics, finance, management, marketing, and other business disciplines.

Contact Information:

Business@ucdenver.edu

303-315-8000

[College of Architecture and Planning](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and urban design.

Contact Information:

CAP@ucdenver.edu

303-315-1000

[College of Arts & Media](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in communication, film and television, music, digital design, and performing arts.

Contact Information:

CAM@ucdenver.edu

303-315-7400



Academic Colleges & Schools Continued

[College of Engineering, Design and Computing](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering, computer science, cybersecurity, construction management, and related fields.

Contact Information:

Engineering@ucdenver.edu

303-315-7170

[College of Liberal Arts & Sciences](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, and behavioral sciences.

Contact Information:

CLAS@ucdenver.edu

303-315-7000

[School of Education & Human Development](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in education, counseling, leadership, and human development.

Contact Information:

Education@ucdenver.edu

303-315-6300

[School of Public Affairs](#)

Offers undergraduate and graduate programs in criminal justice, political science, public administration, and public policy.

Contact Information:

spa.admissions@ucdenver.edu

303-315-2228



Student Support Offices

[Auraria Library](#)

Provides books, study spaces, research assistance, computers, technology, and other academic resources.

[Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#)

Provides confidential mental health counseling, crisis support, and wellness resources.

[Career Center](#)

Offers career advising, internship support, resume and cover letter reviews, interview preparation, career fairs, and job search assistance.

[Disability Resources & Services \(DRS\)](#)

Provides accommodations and support for students with documented disabilities.

[Graduate Admissions Office](#)

Graduate Admissions provides information about graduate application procedures, admissions policies, and enrollment requirements for master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. Admission requirements vary by program, so applicants should review their program's specific requirements. Contact Information: graduateadmissions@ucdenver.edu



Student Support Offices Continued

[Housing & Dining](#)

Provides information about on-campus housing, meal plans, and residential living. Students can also find resources for off-campus housing.

[International Admissions Office](#)

Assists prospective international students with application requirements, credential evaluations, required documents, application status, and admission decisions.

Contact Information: intladmissions@ucdenver.edu

[International Student & Scholar Services \(ISSS\)](#)

Provides immigration advising, issues Forms I-20, processes immigration requests, and supports international students in maintaining their immigration status.

Contact Information: iss@ucdenver.edu

[Office of Information Technology \(OIT\)](#)

Provides technical support for student email, Canvas, Wi-Fi, Duo, passwords, and university software.



Student Support Offices Continued

[Parking & Transportation Services](#)

Provides information about parking permits, campus shuttles, bicycle parking, and transportation options.

[Police Department / Campus Safety](#)

Provides emergency services, safety programs, and campus security resources.

[Student Health Center](#)

Provides medical care, immunizations, preventive health services, and wellness resources.

[Student Life](#)

Connects students with organizations, leadership opportunities, volunteer experiences, and campus events.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Question	Office
Application status, admission requirements, submitting documents, or scholarships	<u>International Admissions</u>
I-20/DS-2019, visa status, travel signatures, CPT, OPT, reduced course loads, employment authorization, or maintaining F-1/J-1 status	<u>International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)</u>
Course registration, degree planning, transfer credits, or academic concerns	<u>Your Academic Advisor</u>
Academic calendar, transcripts, enrollment verification, residency, or graduation	<u>Office of the Registrar</u>
Tuition, billing, payment plans, refunds, or student account charges	<u>Bursar's Office</u>
Financial aid, loans, grants, or work-study	<u>Lynx Central</u>
Student employment, internships, résumés, career fairs, or interview preparation	<u>Career Center</u>
Canvas, university accounts, Wi-Fi, software, passwords, or technical support	<u>Office of Information Technology (OIT) Help Desk</u>
Health services, counseling, accessibility accommodations, or student wellness	<u>Student Wellness & Counseling Services</u>
Housing, dining, or campus life	<u>Housing & Dining</u>
Parking permits, transportation, or campus parking	<u>Parking & Transportation Services</u>
Not sure where to start?	International Admissions (before enrollment) or ISSS (after enrollment). They'll direct you to the appropriate office.