

Concordia University Texas

GLOSSARY



The Concordia University Texas Glossary is designed to help you navigate the language of higher education. Here, you'll find the definitions of frequently used college terminology.

A

Academic Advising

Every student at Concordia has a student academic advisor who works with them from the first semester to graduation. Concordia's student academic advisors develop an understanding of each student's goals and help them determine the right degree plans to achieve those goals.

Academic advisors help students choose classes that will fulfill degree requirements and help them find solutions to any issues (e.g., course unavailability, substituting courses, etc.).

Academic Catalog

The academic catalog has all of the information about degree requirements and specific courses, including credit hours and any applicable prerequisites.

[View Academic Catalog](#)

Tip: Use the search function (Ctrl + F or Command + F) to search for a specific program or course.

Academic Probation

Academic probation refers to the academic standing of a student whose GPA is not meeting minimum requirements.

For undergraduates whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.00 at the end of a semester, the student is placed on Dean's Warning, which is permanently noted on the student's transcript.

The period for the Dean's Warning lasts one semester. At the end of the semester, the student will return to good standing if their cumulative GPA is 2.00 or higher. If the student withdraws from all courses during the semester or the student's GPA is below 2.00, the student will be placed on academic probation.

If a graduate student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.00, the student is immediately placed on academic probation (no Dean's Warning).

At the end of the semester-long probation period, the student will return to good standing if the student's GPA reaches or exceeds the minimum requirement. If the student withdraws from all courses during the probation period or doesn't meet the minimum GPA requirements, the student will be academically ineligible to return and will be dismissed from the University.

Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center at Concordia University Texas houses academic support resources that are offered to all enrolled CTX students.

The center consists of four primary resources:

- Success Center
 - Free tutoring services (peer and tutor.com)
 - Accommodations for students with learning disabilities
 - Study tips
- Math Center
 - Free resource
 - Help for a range of math courses
- Speaking Center
 - Free resource
 - Coaching for all forms of oral communication
- Writing Center
 - Free resource
 - Supports students in all phases of the writing process

[Academic Support Center](#)

Academic Year

An academic year encompasses three semesters, including fall, spring and summer. The academic year begins in August and ends the following August.

[View Academic Calendar](#)

Accelerated Programs

Accelerated programs are degree programs designed to enable students to earn their degrees in a shorter amount of time than a traditional degree program.

For example, Concordia offers two accelerated programs through the College of Health Sciences.

The [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing \(ABSN\)](#) allows students with previous college experience in a non-nursing field to earn a BSN in just 16 months (online coursework with in-person simulation labs and clinical rotations), putting them on a faster path to becoming a registered nurse (RN).

The [Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Degree Advancement \(RRT to BSRC\) Program](#) allows registered respiratory therapists to earn a bachelor's degree fully online in 16 months.

Accreditation

In higher education, accreditation refers to the assurance that a college or university meets quality standards and is therefore certified to provide education and issue degrees.

Concordia University Texas is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Many of the University's programs are also accredited by other organizations:

- Business Administration degree accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)
- Education programs approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing program approved by the Texas Board of Nursing

Add/Drop

Add/drop refers to schedule changes students can make.

On-Campus Courses

You may add or drop any sixteen-week course from the beginning of open registration to the first Friday of class. After the first Friday of class, you cannot add courses. However, you may drop courses up to the designated deadline listed in the Academic Calendar.

Hybrid and Online Courses

You may add or drop any course until the first day of the term or session. You may also drop courses from the time of open registration to the beginning of the second class session of the course.

You must contact their student academic planner to complete this process, and if you receive financial aid, you must also contact your student financial planner before dropping a course.

[Academic Calendar](#)

Adult Degree Program

The Adult Degree Program (ADP) is geared for [adults working toward a degree](#). It offers intensive coursework in a compressed format to complement a full-time work schedule. Students attend classes only one night each week, and they can complete courses in just eight weeks.

Alumni

Alumni refer to people who have graduated from Concordia University Texas. There is a collection of words used to describe the different types of alumni:

- Alumnus — one male graduate
- Alumna — one female graduate
- Alumnae — two or more female graduates
- Alumni — either two or more male graduates or a group of male and female graduates

Tip: The word "alum" is an informal reference to either a male or female graduate that is frequently used, but it's not recommended for use in professional settings.

American Southwest Conference (ASC)

The ASC is the conference in which Concordia Athletics participates. It is a conference within the NCAA Division III (DIII).

[Concordia University Texas Athletics](#) has claimed 10 ASC championships.

Articulation Agreement

An articulation agreement, which is sometimes referred to as a transfer agreement, is an official agreement between institutions of higher education to accept credits completed at each other's institutions.

It guarantees that students transferring from one of the institutions to the other will be able to transfer their credits.

The agreements list which courses are eligible to transfer and how the courses will transfer between institutions.

Concordia University Texas has articulation agreements with Austin Community College (ACC), Tarrant County Community College District (TCCCD) and Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD).

[Concordia University Texas Articulation Agreements](#)

Asynchronous Learning

This style of learning is flexible, allowing you to complete coursework when and where you want to while meeting any applicable deadlines. There is no set time or place where you regularly meet for class.

B

Baccalaureate

The word refers to an undergraduate bachelor's degree.

Blackboard Collaborate

Concordia faculty and students use Blackboard Collaborate, a video conferencing tool through Blackboard Learn, to communicate virtually.

You can access this tool through your Blackboard account.

Blackboard Learn

Blackboard Learn is the portal through which you gain access to class materials, submit your assignments and engage in online discussions.

Professors post grades and resources (e.g., announcements, rubrics, PowerPoint slides, etc.) to Blackboard and make announcements through it.

[Blackboard Learn](#)

C

Chapel

During the spring and fall semesters, Concordia University Texas holds chapel every weekday. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some chapel gatherings are replaced by devotionals sent through email.

Chapel services follow The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and include songs, readings, messages and prayer.

Cohort

A cohort is a group of students who complete a degree program together by following a prescribed course sequence.

At Concordia, cohort learning is utilized in all four graduate programs. Students form a close-knit, supportive professional network of peers, with whom they will work and from whom they will learn.

College

At Concordia, "college" does not refer to the whole institution but a component of the University.

Concordia consists of four colleges:

- College of Business & Communication
- College of Education
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Arts & Sciences

Each college houses multiple degree programs. For example, the College of Business & Communication houses six programs, including the Bachelor of Communication program and the Master of Business Administration program.

Commencement

Commencement refers to the graduation ceremony, where graduates cross the stage. Concordia holds two commencement ceremonies per year: one at the end of the spring semester and one at the end of the fall semester.

While graduates are not required to attend the commencement ceremony, it is highly encouraged. Commencement offers a wonderful opportunity for graduates to celebrate their achievements with their families and friends.

[Concordia University Texas Commencement](#)

Please note that graduation is different from commencement. See "Graduation" for more details.

Commitment Deposit

All new, on-campus traditional undergraduates are required to make a \$275 non-refundable commitment deposit to reserve their spots at Concordia. A portion of the deposit goes toward a mandatory orientation fee, and the remaining amount goes toward tuition.

Commuter Student

A commuter student is an undergraduate student who lives off campus.

Concentration

A concentration is a specific area of focus within a major that allows you to further personalize your degree. Each concentration requires unique coursework.

For example, students who major in Business Administration can concentrate in Accounting & Financial Management, Global Healthcare Policy & Management, Human Resources & Management, or Marketing.

Concordia Common Experience

The Concordia Common Experience is the University's general education curriculum that must be completed by all undergraduates, regardless of delivery (i.e., traditional, online or adult degree program).

Students must complete 42-44 credit hours to meet the Concordia Common Experience requirements. The Concordia Common Core experience is divided into four sections:

- **Concordia Distinctive**
The Concordia Distinctive includes religion courses (typically Old Testament and New Testament) and leadership courses.
- **Liberal Arts**
The Liberal Arts section introduces students to a variety of disciplines, offering diverse perspectives on the world.
- **Foundational Competencies**
The courses in the Foundational Competencies section are designed to equip you with foundational academic skills (e.g., writing, verbal communication, technology, etc.).
- **Experiential Learning**
The Experiential Learning component requires students to engage directly with the community. Students can complete an internship, practicum, travel course, semester abroad, experience-based course or a service-learning experience.

Concordia Crossing

Concordia Crossing is the University's annual community celebration. Students, families, friends, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and others gather to celebrate all things Concordia.

Always taking place on a weekend in early March, Concordia Crossing offers a weekend full of free activities for students, including campus worship, trivia, tours of Concordia's preserve, the CTX Tailgate and more!

The weekend also hosts Celebrate Concordia, the University's annual fundraising event.

[Concordia Crossing](#)

Concordia Preserve

Concordia University Texas' campus consists of 440 acres, a majority of which is part of the Concordia Preserve.

The Concordia Preserve is a 250-acre federally protected nature and wildlife preserve that is part of the regional Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. The area is home to endangered species, including the golden-cheeked warbler and the black-capped vireo songbirds.

[Concordia Preserve](#)

Concordia University System

Concordia University Texas is one of seven colleges and universities across eight campuses that comprise the Concordia University System, which is affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The Concordia University System prepares individuals to serve as Christian leaders for the Church, community and world through a Lutheran lens.

Core Values

Concordia University Texas operates on six core values: Christ-centered, caring for people, vocation, lifelong learning, trust and courage.

Course Load

"Course load" refers to the number of credit hours a student takes in one semester.

At Concordia, 12 or more credit hours is considered full time, and students take an average of 15 credit hours per semester. No student is permitted to enroll in more than 19 credit hours per semester unless you receive approval from the director of Registration and Records for the college in which you are enrolled.

Course Numbering System

Each course is identified by a group of letters and numbers. The letters indicate the subject (e.g., ACC refers to Accounting courses, BADM refers to Business Administration courses, HIS refers to History courses, REL refers to Religion courses, etc.).

The number component has four digits (e.g., 1100 5447, etc.), all of which reveal many things about a specific course.

- First Digit
 - Level of Course

- Level 1 courses are for first-time freshmen.
 - Level 2 courses are open to freshmen but typically require prerequisites.
 - Level 3 courses are upper-level courses.
 - Level 4 courses are typically the highest-level courses in an undergraduate major.
 - Level 5 courses are for master's programs.
 - Level 6 courses are for doctoral programs.
 - Examples
 - *REL 1301 New Testament History & Reading is an entry-level course for freshmen.*
 - *LDR 2201 Leadership Theory & Practice requires a prerequisite.*
 - *MBA 5447 Capstone is the final course for students pursuing a general Master of Business Administration.*
- Second Digit
 - The number of credit hours achieved through a course
 - Examples
 - *REL 1301 New Testament History & Reading is a three-credit-hour course.*
 - *LDR 2201 Leadership Theory & Practice is a two-credit-hour course.*
 - *MBA 5447 Capstone is a four-credit-hour course.*
- Third and Fourth Digits
 - The sequence of the course within the discipline
 - Examples
 - *REL 1301 New Testament History & Reading is typically the first Religion course students take.*
 - *LDR 2201 Leadership Theory & Practice is taken after LDR 1100.*
 - *MBA 5447 Capstone is the last course that students who are pursuing a general MBA take.*
- Numbers After Course Title
 - The number of lecture and lab hours the course requires per week
 - *ART 1308 Introduction to Photography 2,2 requires students to attend 2 hours of lectures per week and 2 hours of lab work (practicing photography) per week.*

Curriculum

Curriculum refers to the planned sequence of instruction (learning goals, lessons, tests and assignments) that students receive at a school or in a specific class. It's the plan for what and how students will learn.

Concordia has a university-wide liberal arts curriculum, each of its 20+ degree programs has a curriculum, and every course has a curriculum.

D

Dean's List

Full-time undergraduate students are evaluated for eligibility on the Dean's List each semester. Students eligible must have a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning notifies CTX students of this honor.

Degree

A degree is an academic title awarded by universities and colleges as an indication of the completion of a course of study.

The following list defines the abbreviations of degrees you may encounter at CTX.

- AA Associate of Arts
- AAA Associate of Applied Arts
- AS Associate of Science
- AAS Associate of Applied Science
- BA Bachelor of Arts
- BAAS Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences
- BBA Bachelor of Business Administration
- BS Bachelor of Science
- DD or DDiv Doctor of Divinity
- EdD Doctor of Education
- MBA Master of Business Administration
- MDiv Master of Divinity
- MEd Master of Education
- PhD Doctor of Philosophy

When referencing a general degree, there are specific guidelines you should follow:

- associate degree
 - Lowercase
 - Never "associate's"
- bachelor's degree
 - Lowercase
 - Always apostrophe-s
 - For multiple degrees: bachelor's degrees
- master's degree
 - Lowercase
 - Always apostrophe-s
 - For multiple degrees: master's degrees
- doctoral degree
 - Lowercase
 - Never use "doctorate degree" ("doctorate" means "doctoral degree")
 - Use either "doctoral degree" or "doctorate"

Degree Plan

A degree plan refers to the requirements that must be met for a student to graduate with a specific degree. It encompasses all of the courses you must take, the number of credit hours you must meet and any other applicable conditions.

Each program has a unique degree plan.

Degree Works

Degree Works is a student degree audit tool accessed through MyInfo. You can view the progress toward your degree, connect with an advisor and access other features, including the following:

- What If
 - Explore majors, minors and concentrations to understand course requirements and see how your completed courses meet the requirements without changing your program of study.
- Look Ahead
 - See how courses you plan to take in the future fit into your degree plan.
- Planner
 - View your long-term plan for your degree, and verify that the courses you plan to take fulfill the requirements.

- GPA Calculator
See how potential grades in current courses will affect your overall GPA (term calculator).
- Advice Calculator
Receive advice on how to achieve your desired GPA based on your current GPA and credits earned.

[View DegreeWorks Tutorial](#)

Diploma

A diploma is the official certificate issued to graduates once their degree completion is certified.

Baccalaureate diplomas include the graduate's name, major and degree. Master's and doctoral diplomas display the graduate's name and degree.

E

Enroll

To enroll in a school is to officially register with a college or university as a student.

You can be enrolled as either a part or full-time student, based upon the number of credit hours you take.

- Undergraduate Full-Time Student 12+ credit hours per semester
- Undergraduate Part-Time Student < 12 credit hours per semester
- Graduate Full-Time Student 6+ credit hours per semester
- Graduate Part-Time Student < 6 credit hours per semester

Esports

Esports refers to competitive video gaming.

Concordia Esports, the University's collegiate competitive gaming team, launched in Fall 2019, as the first program of its kind in Central Texas.

Concordia Esports offers scholarships, and players hone their skills in the Concordia Esports Arena, a state-of-the-art facility that is equipped with Alienware technology and Maxnomic chairs.

[Concordia Esports](#)

Experiential Learning

Experiential learning refers to the process of learning by doing (i.e., hands-on learning), allowing students to put into practice what they learn in the classroom.

F

Faculty

Faculty refers to the group of instructors and professors who teach courses at a higher education institution.

As communicated in the name, full-time faculty teach at a college or university full time. Adjunct faculty are instructors and professors who teach part time at a college or university.

[Types of Faculty Members](#)

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that students fill out each academic year. Colleges and universities use FAFSA data to determine each student's eligibility for federal, state and institutional aid based on financial need.

You can complete your FAFSA at studentaid.gov (Concordia school code: 003557).

Financial Aid

Financial aid refers to money that is either given or lent to you to help you pay for college. All CTX students receive financial aid.

There are multiple types of financial aid, all of which can be separated into two categories: gift aid and student loans.

The difference between the two is repayment. Gift aid does not have to be repaid, while student loans do. Be aware that for certain grants (a type of gift aid), you must meet specific conditions.

[Undergraduate Financial Aid](#)

First-Generation Student

A first-generation college student is defined as a student who does not have a father, mother or guardian with a bachelor's degree.

First-Year Experience

Concordia's First-Year Experience program helps first-time freshmen transition from high school to college.

The program includes the Life & Leadership class, seminars throughout the semester about relevant topics, a service project in the community and a common reading experience.

[Concordia University Texas First-Year Experience](#)

Founders' Day

Concordia University Texas was originally established on October 26, 1926, as a high school to prepare young men for the ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Since then, the school has transformed into a university that serves more than 2,200 students and offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Every October 26, Concordia celebrates Founders' Day by highlighting the importance of philanthropy. Because 100% of CTX students receive financial aid, giving back is important to the entire Concordia community. In addition to raising funds for the school, CTX celebrates its more than 90-year history and shares inspirational stories of how the University has impacted students' lives.

[Founders' Day](#)

G

Grade Point Average (GPA)

A GPA indicates the grades you have earned for the courses you have completed.

- Cumulative GPA
Reflects your standing overall, accounting for all coursework you have completed
- Major GPA
Indicates your GPA for coursework specific only to your major
- Semester GPA
Shows your GPA for coursework completed in a specific semester

You can view your overall GPA in Degree Works and both your overall GPA and GPA by semester on your unofficial transcript through MyInfo.

[How to Calculate Your Major GPA](#)

Graduate

Graduate education (also called postgraduate education) refers to any educational program taken beyond the undergraduate level and includes master's and doctoral degree programs.

Concordia University Texas offers [four graduate programs](#):

- Doctor of Education
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Education
- Master of Public Health

Students in these programs are referred to as "graduate students."

Graduation

Students who have completed all requirements for their degree are eligible to graduate. All students must register for graduation, whether they attend a commencement service or not.

[Concordia University Texas Graduation Information](#)

H

Higher Education

Higher education refers to any education that takes place after graduating from high school (secondary school). It includes universities, colleges, trade schools, technical schools and vocational schools.

It's also known as post-secondary or tertiary education.

Historic Campus

You may hear references to Concordia's "historic campus" or the "downtown campus."

Concordia was originally located near downtown Austin, on a small tract of land between Red River Street and East Avenue (replaced by the bustling Interstate 35).

In 2008, by the grace and providence of God, Concordia University Texas moved to its current campus in Northwest Austin.

[Concordia History](#)

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Concordia's annual reunion event, Homecoming & Family Weekend, brings alumni, families, friends, and current and prospective students together through fun activities throughout the weekend.

Occurring in the fall, the event features trivia, Trunk or Treat and other exciting events.

[Homecoming & Family Weekend](#)

Honors Program

The Concordia University Texas Honors Program offers students a transformational, alternative general education curriculum that is challenging, fun and experiential.

Students join a cohort of intellectually curious, creative and driven students of the highest integrity and engage in academically rigorous, interdisciplinary, enriching courses, toward the pursuit of developing into Christian leaders.

Incoming freshmen, continuing students and transfer students are eligible to apply. The program can be combined with any undergraduate major or program at Concordia.

[Concordia University Texas Honors Program](#)

Honor Societies

Honor societies recognize students for academic excellence. Concordia has seven honor societies:

- Alpha Chi
- Chi Alpha Sigma
- Lambda Pi Eta
- Pi Lambda Theta
- Psi Chi
- Sigma Beta Delta
- Sigma Tau Delta

Students are responsible for requesting honor cords from an honor society. Many students are nominated for honor societies, but you're welcome to talk to your professors about joining an honor society.

[Concordia University Texas Honor Societies](#)

HyFlex

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Concordia University Texas has employed the Hybrid-Flexible Model (HyFlex).

Through HyFlex, students choose how they attend each class: in person or virtually. Classes meet at the designated time, providing all students with a classroom experience, whether in person or online.

|

IncubatorCTX

IncubatorCTX is an on-campus entrepreneurial hub that provides valuable resources for startups and early-stage businesses.

The center hosts the IncubatorCTX Speaker Series during the fall and spring semesters, bringing in business and community leaders to provide insight into various industries. The event is free to the community, including students.

IncubatorCTX also hosts other events throughout the year, including Pitch Perfect, where teams of students pitch a new product idea to a panel of judges.

Intercollegiate Athletics

"Intercollegiate athletics" refers to sports played at the college level that impose eligibility requirements for student-athletes to be able to play.

Concordia University Texas has 15 varsity teams that compete in NCAA DIII. The University also offers the varsity competitive gaming team Concordia Esports.

Student-athletes at Concordia must meet the academic requirements of both the University and NCAA DIII to participate.

Men's Athletics:

- Baseball ★★★★★
- Basketball ★
- Cross Country
- Golf ★★
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track & Field

Women's Athletics:

- Basketball ★
- Cross Country ★
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball ★

Coed Athletics:

Concordia Esports

★ *Denotes one ASC Championship win*

Internship

An internship is a short-term learning experience that allows students to gain valuable work experience and develop marketable skills while making connections in a professional field.

Often unpaid, internships provide valuable real-world experience and can help students determine if they have selected the right major.

Concordia University Texas requires all undergraduate students to [complete an internship](#).

Intramural Sports

Intramural sports are recreational athletics competitions that are organized within a college or university. Students who participate are not under eligibility requirements to play and must form teams.

[Concordia University Texas Intramural Sports](#)

J

Junior Admissions Counselors

A junior admission counselor (JAC) is an undergraduate CTX student who works part time with the Office of Admissions.

The student is responsible for assisting Admissions with the recruitment and enrollment of students, striving to provide each student with the best experience possible.

Common tasks completed by JACs include giving campus tours, calling prospective students and serving as an ambassador for Concordia at events and functions.

[View On-Campus Student Jobs](#)

K

Keywords

Keywords refer to words or short phrases that identify what the content is about, and they make the content discoverable by search engines, databases and other information retrieval systems.

Utilizing keywords extends beyond essays into the job search.

When writing your resume, using the right keywords is critical. Keywords for your resume should include the words for which hiring managers are searching.

If you're applying to become an accountant, you should consider incorporating keywords such as balance sheet, budget and GAAP. If you're applying for a role as a marketing manager, consider adding keywords like digital marketing, SEO and social media.

Vocation & Professional Development (VPD), Concordia's career center, can help you write an excellent resume that incorporates important keywords. See "Vocation & Professional Development" to learn more.

L

Latin Honors

Latin honors recognize undergraduate students for their academic achievements based on GPA.

All undergraduate students with at least 30 credit hours earned at Concordia and whose cumulative Concordia GPA is 3.50 or higher at the end of the term in which they complete degree requirements are eligible for graduation with honors. The academic status appears on the student's official transcript.

There are three levels of recognition based on GPA:

- Summa Cum Laude 3.900-4.000
- Magna Cum Laude 3.750-3.899
- Cum Laude 3.500-3.749

Liberal Arts Education

Concordia University Texas is a liberal arts institution. A liberal arts education exposes students to a wider array of studies, equipping them with general knowledge while helping them develop intellectual capacities, like critical thinking.

Technical or vocational education focuses on providing students with profession-specific knowledge and skills.

Lower-Level Courses

Lower-level courses refer to courses that offer introductions to subjects and are listed as either 1XXX or 2XXX.

Through lower-level courses, you develop a foundational understanding of subjects.

M

Major

A major is a course of study at advanced course levels that develops both depth and breadth within a discipline or field. It is the primary focus of your degree. Your major appears on your diploma.

[View Majors](#)

Minor

A minor is a program of study that complements your major and appears on your transcript. It requires fewer credit hours than a major and provides some degree of content mastery in an area of specialization.

[View Minors](#)

Modality

Modality refers to the method through which students learn. Concordia offers a variety of modalities:

- Day classes on campus
- Night classes on campus
- Online classes
- Hybrid (on-campus and online classes)

MyInfo

MyInfo is the portal through which you register for classes, order transcripts, view your financial aid information, make a payment and access Degree Works.

[MyInfo](#)

N

NCAA

Often pronounced as "N C double-A," NCAA stands for the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which regulates conferences and student-athletes for more than 1,000 colleges and universities across the country. The NCAA requires student-athletes to meet academic requirements to participate on a sports team.

Concordia Athletics competes in Division III (DIII) through the American Southwest Conference (ASC). Because Concordia competes in NCAA DIII, the University is not allowed to offer athletics scholarships. However, student-athletes are eligible for the same merit scholarships, grants and awards as all other CTX students.

[Concordia University Texas Athletics](#)

O

Organizations

Concordia University Texas offers more than 20 [student organizations](#).

All students are invited to get involved. You can view upcoming gatherings and events for student organizations on Tornado Radar. See "Tornado Radar" for more information.

P

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work and taking credit for it as your own.

Concordia University Texas prohibits plagiarism of any kind. Blackboard, where you submit your coursework, automatically checks submitted materials for plagiarism.

Prerequisite

A prerequisite course refers to a course that must be taken first before taking the next sequential course.

Courses with prerequisites ensure that students have the foundational knowledge needed to dive deeper into a subject.

Private College/University

Private colleges and universities refer to higher education institutions that are primarily funded by tuition and donations.

Private institutions tend to have fewer students, smaller campuses and fewer programs. However, they also tend to offer smaller class sizes and greater personalized attention.

Public College/University

Public colleges and universities are primarily funded by state governments, allowing the institutions to offer lower rates of tuition.

Public institutions tend to have large populations of students, larger campuses and a wider array of programs. However, most students take lower-level courses with hundreds of other students, and the institutions tend to offer less individualized attention.

[Public vs. Private Universities](#)

Q

Quiz

A quiz is utilized by professors to test student's knowledge of specific subjects. Shorter than a test, a quiz typically has fewer questions and accounts for a smaller percentage of your grade.

R

Residence Hall Reservation Deposit

Students planning to live in one of the residence halls on campus are required to make a non-refundable deposit of \$200 to reserve their spots.

The deposit will be applied to the payment of room fees.

Room & Board

"Room and Board" refers to the fees associated with living on campus. Currently, all freshmen are required to live on campus and purchase a meal plan.

Every dorm room at Concordia includes a microwave, mini-fridge and private bathroom in addition to a desk, wardrobe, dresser and bed for each resident.

[Room & Board Costs](#)

Rubric

A rubric is a document that lists the criteria for grading assignments.

It helps students understand the professor's expectations and serves as an evaluation tool for professors to determine students' academic performance on an assignment.

S

Semester

A semester is 16 weeks long. In traditional programs, students take 16-week courses.

In non-traditional and graduate programs, students take eight-week courses. Two sessions of eight-week courses compose a full semester.

Service-Learning

Service-learning refers to a learning strategy that combines community service with instruction and reflection, teaching civic responsibility and strengthening communities.

The [Service-Learning Program at Concordia University Texas](#) offers students abundant opportunities to serve the community.

Specialization

The same as a concentration, a specialization is a specific area of focus within a major that allows you to further personalize your degree. Each specialization requires unique coursework.

STEM

"STEM" is an acronym for "science, technology, engineering and math."

STEM courses refer to the subjects that fall within the four broad categories. STEM careers or STEM jobs refer to the wide variety of occupations in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Student Academic Planners

Concordia's student academic planners help students build degree plans and offer valuable advice to help students move toward degree completion. Additionally, they help facilitate several other processes, including petitions, study abroad requests and internships.

You work with the same academic planner throughout your entire degree.

Student Central

Student Central is a one-stop shop for any questions CTX students have.

Located on the second level of Cedel Hall, the student academic planners and student financial planners are located in Student Central. They can answer questions about financial aid, registration, student accounts and any other questions you have.

If you don't know where to go, start here!

[Student Central](#)

Student Financial Planners

Student financial planners serve as financial aid advisors and accounts receivable representatives.

They help students complete all financial aid requirements (including Veteran Affairs assistance) and pay their bills. Student financial planners also strive to increase student financial literacy and awareness of the investment in higher education.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Concordia's SLOs describe the primary areas you should develop skills in through each course. In addition to course-specific SLOs, the University has four overarching SLOs that apply to all courses.

- Communication
Communicate effectively, orally and in writing.
- Critical Thinking
Think critically and creatively to gain perspective, solve problems and implement solutions.
- Career
Articulate how identity and faith shape vocation.
- Community
Lead in diverse communities and environments in which you live, work and serve.

Syllabus

The syllabus is a document professors give to students that outlines the course objectives, expectations, project descriptions and a schedule of due dates.

Synchronous Learning

This style of learning refers to the traditional learning environment where you attend class in person with your classmates, and the professor teaches in person. Everyone is learning at the same time in the same place.

T

Test-Optional University

A test-optional university is an institution that does not require incoming freshmen to submit ACT or SAT scores for consideration in the admissions process.

[Concordia is temporarily test-optional](#), waiving testing requirements for students through the 2024-25 academic year.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

Concordia University Texas is affiliated with The LCMS. It was the first educational institution established in Texas for The LCMS.

The LCMS theology guides Concordia's approach to Christian faith, including the religion courses.

Tornado Radar

Tornado Radar is a platform that displays all of the events occurring on campus.

You can view events by categories, organizations, tags and dates. Download the [Tornado Radar app](#) for iPhone or [visit the online site](#).

Tornado Textbooks

Every student is automatically enrolled in the optional Tornado Textbooks program. The Concordia Bookstore provides all of your required books for the semester for a rental fee of \$25 per credit hour.

The fixed fee allows you to better plan for your semester costs and saves an average student about 35% per year on textbooks.

[Tornado Textbooks](#)

Transcript

A transcript is a record of all of your coursework and the grades you earned. Think of it as a comprehensive report card.

When applying to Concordia as a freshman, you submit your high school transcripts. Students with 12 or more college-level credits submit their college transcripts (Student Records → View Unofficial Transcripts).

You can [view your unofficial Concordia University Texas transcript through MyInfo](#).

Tuition

Tuition is the cost associated with the courses you take each semester. The rate depends on the number of credit hours you take, how you take them (in person or online) and other factors.

Concordia offers tuition payment plans.

[Tuition Costs](#)

Types of Students

There are four categories of students at CTX:

- [First-Time Freshman](#)

A first-time freshman is a student who is attending a higher education institution for the first time. First-time freshmen may also be referred to as "traditional" or "trad" students.

- [Transfer Student](#)

A transfer student is someone who has 12+ credit hours of college-level credit and has transferred in from a community college or other university. Transfer students taking daytime courses may also be referred to as "traditional" or "trad" students.

- [Adult Degree Program](#)

A student in the Adult Degree Program is a busy adult who is earning an undergraduate degree, entering higher education for the first time or returning after a hiatus. Students in the Adult Degree Program may also be referred to as "non-traditional" students.

- [Graduate Student](#)

A graduate student has a bachelor's and/or a master's degree and is earning a graduate-level degree.

U

Undergraduate

Undergraduate education includes associate degree programs and bachelor's degree programs.

Students in these programs are referred to as "undergraduate students."

Upper-Level Courses

Upper-level courses, indicated by 3XXX or 4XXX, provide a deeper understanding of subjects.

Courses listed at the 5XXX and 6XXX levels are master's-level and doctoral-level courses, respectively.

V

Veterans Benefits

Veterans benefits include financial help to offset college costs.

Concordia University Texas is grateful, proud and supportive of those who have served or continue to serve in the United States Military.

The University accepts most Veterans Affairs (VA) educational benefits and participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Veterans must contact their local VA representative to take advantage of the benefits and apply for their benefits on the Department of Veterans Affairs website.

Note that CTX does not accept the Hazelwood Act because the benefits are eligible only at public institutions.

[Veterans Benefits](#)

Vocation

"Vocation" refers to the spheres of influence you are called to, oftentimes simultaneously. It's the meaningful work through which God uses you to glorify Him. While your career is part of it, your vocation is much more.

[Vocation & Professional Development \(VPD\)](#), Concordia's career center, offers a full range of career services to help you prepare for your vocation.

VorTex

At Concordia, "VorTex" has a unique meaning. VorTex the Tornado is the University mascot who touched down on campus in 1995.

W

Webinar

A webinar is a live online educational presentation that allows viewers to submit questions to the speaker.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of Concordia's speaking events, particularly the IncubatorCTX Speaker Series, have shifted to webinars.

Withdraw

If you choose to withdraw from (or drop) a class, you will not receive a grade for the class; it will not be factored into your GPA. You will instead receive a "W" for withdrawal. Please [see the Academic Catalog](#) for information on withdrawal refunds.

Woosh

"Woosh!" is Concordia's official spirit slogan. You will hear students, faculty and staff woosh to display school pride.

[How to Woosh](#)

X

X

"X" is used in course numbers to indicate the type of course required when students can choose from multiple options.

For example, for the Music degree with a concentration in Music Education, students must choose a two-credit private instruction course every semester, which is indicated by X2XX. Two of these courses must also be upper-level courses, which is indicated by 3XXX.

When the subject is replaced with "XXX," it means that multiple subjects can apply.

For example, XXX 3399 Independent Study allows students to choose an area of interest to study.

Y

Y'all

"Y'all" is a contraction of "you all" and is a staple of the language of Texans.

While it's frequently used in conversation, try to avoid using "y'all" or any other contractions in academic writing.

However, when speaking with family, friends, professors and others, y'all feel free to use it!

Z

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, Etc.

Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype and other organizations offer video communication services.

While you may use these organizations personally outside of class, Concordia's communicates via video through Blackboard Collaborate.