

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to welcoming and supporting first-generation college students that might be overwhelmed or intimidated during their college journey.

What does "first-generation" mean?

At Bowling Green State University, we consider students with no parent or guardian who has completed a bachelor's degree to be first-generation. Our first-generation students may be the very first people in their families to attend a four-year university, or they may have older siblings who have attended college.

First-Gen Glossary and Helpful Hints

Academic Calendar: Published by the Registrar's office each year, this is where significant dates about the opening and closing of the college, first and last days of classes and other important dates. Can be found here: <https://www.bgsu.edu/registration-records/academic-calendars.html>

Academic Honesty: BGSU students are expected to maintain the highest level of integrity in their academic work. From time to time, however, issues such as cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism in an academic exercise arise. The original jurisdiction and penalty both vary depending on the offense and when it is discovered. Also, there are specific requirements for record-keeping and for notification of the student and academic dean. The official policy is included in the Faculty Handbook (Academic Charter). The policy is also available in the Student Handbook (Codes of Conduct).

Academic Probation: If a student's cumulative BGSU GPA is in the probation/suspension/dismissal range, the student will be placed on probation. To improve their cumulative GPA to at least the warning range, students on academic probation are strongly advised to enroll for no more than 12 credit hours in any semester and are expected to work with their college office to develop a plan for improving their academic performance. Students on probation are expected to increase attention to academic activities and decrease hours committed to non-academic activities. It should be noted that teams, clubs, and other student organizations have the right to use academic standards to limit participation in their organization.

Academic Program: A program of study leading to a certificate, associate, bachelor's, masters or doctorate degree.

Academic Year: Consecutive fall, winter, spring and summer semesters. For example: Academic Year 2017-18 refers to the interval from Fall 2017 to Summer 2018.

Accessibility Services

Accredited: Recognition that a university or program meets national or regional standards.

Bachelor's Degree: An award that requires 120 credits usually completed in at least four years but not more than five years of full-time equivalent college-level work. Also, it includes bachelor's degrees in which the normal four years of work are completed in three years.

Belonging: An ongoing process of finding and creating connections. It is about the extent to which students, faculty, and staff feel valued, respected, included, and empowered. When people belong, they experience being affirmed by the campus community, inclusive of the people, physical spaces, and organizational structures within that community (adapted from Strayhorn, 2018, p. 4).

Bursar's Office: The office where students pay their tuition bill.

Bowling Green Perspective Courses (BGPs): Courses designed to introduce students to the fundamental knowledge, skills and values essential to the study of academic disciplines.

Canvas: The online platform used for web-based coursework. A web-based learning management system.

Capstone: The capstone is a culminating project or experience that generally takes place in the student's final year of study and requires review, synthesis, and application of what has been learned over the course of the student's college experience. The result may be original research, an innovative design, an art exhibit, or a performance. The capstone can provide evidence of assessment of a range of outcomes.

Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship: The mission of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is to enhance undergraduate education through the intellectual stimulation of active student participation in meaningful research and creative activities in all fields of study.

Cohort: A specific group of students established for tracking purposes, such as first-time first-year students or transfer students entering in a specific semester, or doctoral students entering in a specific academic year.

Credit: A unit representing one credit hour (1 credit = 1 credit hour) of successfully completed work. It is applied toward the total number of credits needed for completing the requirements of a degree or certificate.

Credit Hour: A unit of measure representing an hour (50 minutes) or equivalent of instruction over a 14- or 15-week period in a semester. It is applied toward the total number of hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree or certificate.

College-Credit Plus (CCP): Ohio's dual enrollment program that provides students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking courses from Ohio colleges or universities.

Curriculum Resource Center: The CRC is a collection of high-quality materials for educators to use with learners in grades preK-12. (Located on the 2nd Floor of the Jerome Library).

Degree Audit (DARS): An electronic tool that creates a report that matches completed, in-progress, and registered courses with the degree requirements of the specified program to determine what requirements have not been met.

Direct PLUS Loans: Federal loans that graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students use to help pay for education expenses.

Double Major: A program in which students may complete two undergraduate programs of study simultaneously. Students pursuing a double major fulfill the course requirements for both majors, and graduate with a minimum of 120 credits total. At graduation, a double major earns a

single degree in the primary major, but both the primary and secondary major are recorded on the transcript.

Drop: A student may decide to enroll or not enroll in a class without penalty during a designated time-frame period called Add/Drop.

Early Field Experience: BGSU's educator preparation program allows students to participate in multiple early field experiences (connected to their courses) in which they have the opportunity to examine the teaching profession and connect research and theory to practice.

Equity: Equity is the practice of ensuring that personal or social circumstances, such as protected class or intersecting identities, are not obstacles to achieving one's potential. Equity is reflected in policies and processes which acknowledge that we live in a world where not all members are afforded the same resources, treatment, and opportunity, and work to remedy this fact (modified from Equity and Quality in Education, 2012).

Faculty: Professors and instructors who teach and/or conduct research.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education and almost all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid.

FERPA: Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act. This law governs how colleges protect and share student information.

Financial Aid: Grants, loans, assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, tuition waivers, tuition discounts, veteran's benefits, employer aid (tuition reimbursement) and other monies (other than from relatives/friends) provided to students to meet expenses.

Full-Time Student: Undergraduates: Students registered for 12 or more credit hours at the census date; Graduate Students: Students registered for 8 or more credit hours at the census date.

GPA — Grade Point Average: A measure of course performance. A GPA is obtained by dividing the number of grade points by the credit hours completed, where each credit hour of an A = 4 points, a B = 3 points, a C = 2 points, a D = 1 point, and an F = 0 points.

Graduate Student: A student who has graduated with a bachelor's degree and is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree.

Grant: A form of financial aid that does not need to be repaid.

Handshake: The recruiting and career services platform for current students to connect with on-campus and off-campus jobs/internships..

Information Technology Services (ITS): From registration to coursework, from email to personal information, and everything in between, whatever you need to do at BGSU, Information Technology Services (ITS) can help. Get more information here:
<https://www.bgsu.edu/its/students.html>

Interlibrary Loan (ILL): Interlibrary loan (ILL) is a system of lending items to other libraries for the use of their patrons. You can request books, journal articles/book chapters, music scores, DVDs, and more, and we will find a library from which to borrow the item.

Internship: A temporary professional experience typically in a student's career field or major. It can be paid or unpaid and can sometimes be taken for academic credit.

Jerome Library (Club Jerome): BGSU's on-campus library; 8 floors housing various study spaces, collections and resources.

Lab: Short for laboratory: a part of a course where a student completes hands-on activities.

Learning Community: Learning communities provide a space and a structure for students to align around a shared goal or common interest.

Lecture: The term for a class that does not entail lab work.

Life Design: Within the Life Design program, BGSU students learn to maximize their academic experience, prioritize their well-being, make connections that build an invaluable network while in college and jump-start their careers before graduation.

Major: The concentration of courses required to earn a degree. For example, a biology major is pursuing a degree in biology and will take courses oriented to that area of interest.

Math and Stats Lab: Need help in a math course and not sure where to go? The Math and Stats Lab provides drop-in tutoring for all Math and Stats courses on campus. (Located in the Jerome Library)

Methods: For teacher candidates, the methods semester initiates the "professional year," with student teaching typically following immediately afterward. BGSU methods students are assigned to a school site, which they visit on a schedule determined by their programs, while simultaneously taking rigorous campus methods classes.

Midterms: Exams that occur in the middle of a semester, to test a student's grasp of topics covered in a course up to that point.

Minor: A program of at least 15 credits in a coherent set of courses in a particular discipline, department or program designed for students to attain some competence in a second area of study without fulfilling the full range of requirements of the major.

Office Hours: Specific times that faculty are available in their office to meet with students. All students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities, usually no appointment is needed.

Part-Time Student: Undergraduate: students taking 11 or fewer credits per semester.

Graduate: students taking less than 9 credits.

Plagiarism: A major form of academic dishonesty that occurs when a student uses the words of another person without attribution, passing them off as their own.

Practicum: A course designed to provide students with supervised practical experience in which students apply the materials learned in their coursework to the actual situation. An example is student-teaching for education majors.

Pre-requisite (pre-req): A course students must complete before taking a more advanced course in the discipline.

Presence: The system to engage with BGSU student organizations and get information on events. A cloud-based student engagement platform. Can be found here:

<https://bgsu.presence.io/organizations>

Professional Year: The final year of EDHD's program to become a teacher; including, Methods Semester and Student Teaching Semester.

Registrar: The college official who oversees registration, student grades and transcripts.

Resident Assistant (RA): A student, employed by the department of residence life to live in a campus residence hall and serve as a resource and role model to students.

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program: The McNair Scholars Program encourages students to pursue graduate studies by providing opportunities to define goals, engage in research, and develop the skills and student/faculty mentor relationships critical to success at the doctoral level. This program is for first generation, low-income students OR students who are from a group underrepresented at the doctoral level (African-American, Latino-American, or Native American).

Scholarship: Monetary awards (that do not need to be repaid) presented to college students based on various criteria, such as need-based, academic excellence, leadership, community service, and extracurricular activities.

See It. Hear It. Report It.: Bowling Green State University is committed to community well-being and belonging. In turn, it is the responsibility of each person within the University community to take action when an issue or concern arises. Report an incident or concern here: <https://www.bgsu.edu/report-incident.html>

Semester: The time period during which courses are offered. The word "term" is another word to describe a semester.

Study Abroad: College coursework that students take outside the U.S., providing a great opportunity to experience foreign cultures and travel.

Subsidized Student Loan: A loan that is not charged interest and does not require payments while the student is in school.

Syllabus: A document/agreement provided at the beginning of a term that outlines the key elements of a course, including things such as learning objectives, assigned readings, major assignments, test and quiz information, and other requirements or expectations of the course.

Teaching Assistant (TA): Typically a graduate student who assists a professor with instructional responsibilities.

Term: Another name for a semester.

The Learning Commons: BGSU's centralized academic support department for BGSU students; including, Academic Coaching, Course-Based Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, The Writing Center and The Math and Stats Lab. (Located in the Jerome Library)

The Writing Center: The Writing Center offers in-person and virtual writing appointments as well as an Online Writers Submission Form. (Located in the Jerome Library)

Transfer Credits: Credits from courses completed outside BGSU that are transferred in for academic credit.

Transcript: Official record of a student's academic work showing dates attended, courses taken, grades earned, and credits received.

Tuition: Amount of money charged to students for instructional services. Tuition may be charged per term, per course, or per credit.

Undergraduate: A student who is pursuing but has not yet received a bachelor's degree.
Unsubsidized loan

Withdrawal: The process of ending enrollment in a course. Students may withdraw from courses without penalty during designated times. Withdrawing after a deadline may result in a Withdraw, or W, placed on the transcript to indicate that the class was started but not finished.

Work Study: A Federal financial aid program providing part-time employment to students based on the financial need of students and available jobs within the university.