



UNIVERISTY TERMINOLOGY



Subject	A subject is an area of study and each represents subject approximately ten hours of work per week (in-class and self-directed study time), though this varies class to class and student to student.
Session or Semester	Typically, students will study two half-year sessions (Autumn and Spring). These sessions run for 17 weeks each including exams.
Lecture	A lecture involves an academic presenting themes and concepts related to a unit. Most subjects run one lecture per week to as many as 200 students.
Tutorial	Tutorial classes run in smaller groups of 15 to 25 students. They allow for discussion of lecture content, student interaction and debate. Most subjects run one weekly tutorial.
Workshop/Practical	Workshops/practicals involve hands-on learning activities with professional equipment. These are typical in programs such as Health Sciences, Medicine and Nursing.
Major/Sub- major	Many degrees include a Major, made up of 80 credit points (normally 8 subjects). These subjects are closely related and allow the student to specialise in particular fields. A Sub-Major is made up of 40 credit points (normally 4 subjects).
Core/Elective Subjects	Programs usually contain some core, or compulsory, subjects. Some courses also have room for students to choose ‘elective’ subjects. This could be a Sub-Major or a chance to study other areas of interest.
Deferment	A process where you choose to delay the commencement of your study by up to 12 months.
Census Date	The date when the University finalises all enrolments. Before this date, students can drop, add or change their subjects without financial penalty. After this date, students will be charged fees for the subjects they are enrolled in.
Diploma	Western Sydney University The College offers Diploma programs, which are 12 or 16 month’s worth of study. Successful completion of a Diploma allows a student to gain entry into the second year of the related Bachelor’s degree.
Foundation Studies	Western Sydney University The College offers Foundation Studies in Health Science/Nursing, which is a 4 or 8 month program. Successful completion of this program allows a student to gain entry into the first year of the related Bachelor’s degree.
Undergraduate	An Undergraduate program leads to a Bachelor’s Degree. A student studying at this level is also sometimes referred to as an ‘undergraduate’
Postgraduate	A Postgraduate course leads to the awarding of a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Master’s Degree or Doctorate. A Postgraduate degree usually requires the completion of an Undergraduate degree as a prerequisite.
HDR/PhD	HDR stands for Higher Degree by Research, which involves a unique supervised research project. A HDR student might be a Masters by Research student or a PhD student. PhD means ‘Doctor of Philosophy’. PhD students submit a thesis based on extensive and original research in their chosen field.
Bonus Points/Adjustment Factors	Bonus Points, now called ‘Adjustment Factors’ give students a boost to their selection ranking when applying to university. Each university has their own Adjustment Factors. Western gives adjustment factors based on a student’s performance in HSC subjects, or where they live or study.
UAC	Universities Admissions Centre processes applications for admission to most undergraduate courses at participating tertiary education institutions and provide the ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admission Rank to NSW HSC students.
HECS-HELP	Higher Education Contribution Scheme—Higher Education Loan Program that includes up-front payment discounts and loans to assist eligible Commonwealth supported students pay their student contribution amounts.