

Glossary of Terms

academic standards — measures of scholastic excellence held by a university; most require that students maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) to continue their studies.

ACT —ACT Assessment; one of two standardized achievement tests (the other is the SAT) taken by U.S. high school students and international students interested in university study in the United States.

bachelor's degree — see our overview of the U.S. education system.

credit hour — a unit counted toward completion of an academic program. Each course is worth a number of credit hours (also known as "credits") the number of credit hours reflects the number of hours a student spends in class for that course per week. A typical course offers 3 credit hours. Students typically take 12-15 credit hours per semester. A bachelor's degree typically requires a total of 120-124 credit hours.

Demons — Our mascot- In 1907 when St. Vincent's College became DePaul University, the sports teams wore red uniforms with large 'D's on the front. During a game, in the early 1900s, an announcer referred to the players as the "D-men". This name stuck with the team and evolved into the Demon we have today.

DePaul Central — the university office responsible for student tuition, fees, and bill paying.

doctoral degree — see our overview of the U.S. education system.

dorm — shortened form of "dormitory"; also known as "residence hall." A university building where students live while going to school, often with shared rooms.

DS-2019 — An immigration document used by students to obtain a J-1 visa.

extracurricular activities — organized student activities connected with school and usually carrying no academic credit, such as sports, clubs, volunteer activities. Many college applications request a list of high school extracurricular activities.

fall — DePaul University divides the school year into four quarters—fall, winter, spring and summer. The fall semester generally begins in September and ends in late November. Fall also refers to one of the four seasons (divisions of the year) experienced in Illinois. Fall, also called autumn, is comprised of the transition months of September, October, and November when the weather begins to cool and winter approaches.

financial documentation — proof, often in the form of bank statements or certificates of deposit, that students have the necessary money to study in the United States. DePaul

requires international students to submit a financial documentation before an I-20 or DS-2019 can be issued.

financial statement — a document issued by banks or credit companies that tracks a person's finances, including credits and debits.

GPA — Grade Point Average; an average of grades earned, weighted by the number of credit hours earned.

graduate degree — a degree earned after completing the bachelor's degree. Examples include master's degrees and doctorates (Ph.D.'s). See our overview of the U.S. education system.

graduate student — a student, usually working toward a master's or doctoral degree, who has already completed a bachelor's degree.

I-20 — An immigration document used by students to obtain an F-1 visa.

immigration — the act of coming into a country to live where one is not a native resident.

international student — at DePaul University, we consider any student who is on (or will need to be on) a nonimmigrant visa to be an international student. U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents are considered "domestic" students.

mandatory fees — required costs charged by the university in addition to tuition: examples include student activity fee, student health fee, technology fee, and transportation fee.

master's degree — see our overview of the U.S. education system.

merit-based scholarship — money awarded to students to attend college. It is usually based on a student's academic achievements.

mile — a unit of distance equal to 1,609 meters.

miscellaneous fees — extra costs charged by the university for services such as transcripts, admission applications, and independent study.

neighborhood — a district or section with distinct characteristics in which a group of people live; at DePaul, this refers to the areas where we are located Loop Campus and Lincoln Park campus.

off-campus housing — apartments and houses not located on campus premises.

on-campus housing — apartments, houses, and residence halls located on campus premises.

SAT — The Scholastic Assessment Test is one of two standardized achievement tests (the other is the ACT) taken by U.S. high school students and international students interested in university study in the United States. Many universities have a minimum SAT requirement for admission.

SEVIS — The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a database used by universities and colleges to record information about all students who will need an F, M, or J student visa to enter the United States. It is also used by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to send information about admitted students electronically to consulates and embassies in preparation for interviews.

spring — DePaul University divides the school year into four quarters: fall, winter, spring and summer. The spring semester generally begins late March and ends in mid June. Spring also refers to one of the four seasons (divisions of the year) experienced in Illinois. Spring is comprised of the transition months of March, April, and May when the weather begins to warm and summer approaches.

SSN — Social Security Number; a number assigned by the government to U.S. residents at birth. Disclosure of your U.S. Social Security number is optional.

Summer — DePaul University divides the school year into four quarters: fall, winter, spring and summer. The Summer semester generally begins mid June and ends in late August. Summer also refers to one of the four seasons (divisions of the year) experienced in Illinois. Summer is comprised of the months of June, July, and August when the weather is at its warmest.

TOEFL — Test Of English as a Foreign Language; a test that measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand North American English. Many DePaul University academic programs have a minimum TOEFL score for admission.

tuition — the cost of college instruction based on the number of courses taken.

undergraduate student — a student working toward a bachelor's degree. A first-level university student. See our overview of the U.S. education system.

university identification number — all DePaul students are assigned an identification number that they can use to access their grades and other information.

Winter — DePaul University divides the school year into four quarters: fall, winter, spring and summer. The Winter semester generally begins January and ends in mid March. Winter also refers to one of the four seasons (divisions of the year) experienced in Illinois. Winter is comprised of the months of December, January, and February, and when the weather is at its coldest.