

NEW PROGRAM & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
TERMINOLOGY – DRAFT (FOR COMMENT)

Core

The common curriculum of an ecosystem that provides students with shared knowledge and flexibility to move within academic areas. To date, cores have been between 3 and 5 courses.

Concentration (from Academic Catalog 2012-13)

A concentration allows for an in-depth exploration of a focused area within the scope of the student's major discipline. Concentrations are available for study by majors within the appropriate area only. Options for concentrations are specified by the academic program. Similarly, the number of credits required to complete the concentration and the sequence and selection of required and elective courses are determined by the program.

Credential Cluster

A specific group of courses or learning experience that define a measurable competency. Credential clusters lead to specific credential that is cited on your transcript (like a badge.) A reference to the badge system is: Kevin Carey, "A Future Full of Badges," *Chronicle for Higher Education*, April 8, 2012. <http://www.educationsector.org/publications/future-full-badges>

Ecosystem

An "ecosystem" is a University-wide platform for curricular innovation that identifies a unifying umbrella-theme that

- Builds on existing capabilities and expertise,
- Encourages trans-college collaboration,
- Promotes new program development and multidisciplinary projects,
- Enhances and improves existing programs, and
- Garners external funding.

Minor (from Academic Catalog 2012-13)

A minor is a set of courses that provide supplemental study in a particular subject area. A student may choose a minor with the assistance of an academic advisor upon completion of 60 semester hours. Options for minors are determined by the academic program and consist of a minimum of twelve credits in the subject area. A student may not use the same course for credit in both the major and the minor areas. [Minors are 4 course sequences.]

Module

A curricular component that builds out a subject area to define a specialized subject matter or theme.

"Plug-in" or "Plug and Play"

Generic term usually reserved to indicate a specialized curricular component that plugs-in (and thus differentiates) a more general curriculum (or core).

Lean core

A distilled, essential, Spartan and disciplined set of courses that are organized around methods of inquiry and are designed to integrate with credential clusters (plug and play). A lean core

defines an area that is clearly differentiated in the market and may comprise 90 credits including College Studies.

Multi-modal

A term used to describe how a set of courses, subjects or capabilities in a curriculum or program may be leveraged or “repackaged” to create multiple offerings (as a core, a bridge program, a certificate, etc.).