

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Degree Requirements - A degree is an academic title conferred on students who complete a unified program of study. Degrees vary according to the major program.

Bachelor of Arts degree – The B.A. is distinguished by its humanistic emphasis.

Bachelor of Science degree – The B.S. is distinguished by its scientific emphasis.

Lists of courses satisfying Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degree requirements are found at http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/BA_and_BS_Degree_Courses.shtml.

Concentration – A prescribed set of courses associated with a major or minor that is designed to focus a student's course of study according to interest and/or career goals. A concentration is not a required component of all majors and/or minors. The student must formally declare the concentration for it to appear on the transcript of record. The concentration will be noted on the transcript only after the student graduates.

Cognate – A set of courses outside the major that is designed to complement other components of the student's course of study and to support selected professional goals. A cognate is not a required component of a program. A student does not have to formally declare a cognate and it will not appear on the transcript of record.

Core – A defined group of courses within a particular major or minor that is required of all students completing that major or minor.

Major – A coherent set of required and elective courses approved by the Board of Visitors and meeting state criteria that, when completed by a student, signifies a degree of preparation in a field or fields of study. The credit hour requirements for the major are set by the respective colleges and academic units and may not consist of less than 30 hours. A student must formally declare a major.

Matriculate – you have paid your deposit.

Minor – A cohesive set of required and elective courses that, when completed by a student, connotes knowledge and skills in a discipline, region or topic area, but not at the depth of a major. The minor is designed for students who are not majoring in the same area and typically requires between 18-24 credit hours, as set by the respective academic unit and college. A student must formally declare the minor for it to appear on the transcript of record. A minor is not required for graduation.

Pre-professional Advisory Program – This program includes a set of recommended courses for students who wish to shape their undergraduate experience toward a related professional goal beyond the undergraduate degree, such as the pre-law, pre-medicine, pre-dentistry and pre-health programs. Pre-professional advisory programs appear on the transcript during a student's undergraduate career, but do not appear on the transcript after graduation.

Pre-professional Licensure and Degree Program -- This program must be related to a student's major as part of a planned progress toward professional credentialing, such as the pre-professional teacher education programs. It creates a distinct set of knowledge or skills that qualifies one to practice in a particular area or work in a specific field. This designation appears on the transcript.

Track – A prescribed set of courses within a concentration. A track is not a required component of all concentrations. A student does not have to formally declare a track and it will not appear on the transcript of record.