Academic Terminology

- **Academic Program**
  - A major-degree combination

- **Attribute**
  - Course Attribute: A designation that associates a course (enrollment restriction) with a student and/or student population.
  - Student Attribute: Attributes are placed on student records to identify them as a member of that population and allow them to register for restricted sections.
  - Examples:

- **Carolina Core**
  - The Carolina Core provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
  - It provides the foundation for subsequent specialized study and for lifelong learning.
  - Students will complete a minimum of 31 credit hours to satisfy Core requirements

- **Carolina Core Components (“Components”)**
  - the 10 goals of the Carolina Core represent a universal portfolio of learning outcomes delivered through a variety of courses

- **Carolina Core Codes (“Codes”)**
  - Three letter acronyms to designate the Carolina Core Components

- **Carolina Core Requirements (“Requirements”)**
  - Each of the ten components of the Carolina Core has specific Learning Outcomes and Credit Hour Requirements.
  - Credit hours will range between 0 – 7 Credits depending on selection of either stand-alone or overlay approved courses to meet Core components.

- **Carolina Core Foundational Courses (“Foundational Courses”)**
  - Approved courses that span the liberal arts and sciences to meet at least one of the ten Core components.
  - These courses apply across disciplines and are intended for students to take early in the undergraduate experience.
  - Foundational courses may be taken as stand-alone or overlay approved courses.

- **Carolina Core Lower Division (“Lower Division”)**
  - Comprises the 10 components and learning outcomes of the Core, including both Stand-Alone and Overlay Approved components

- **Carolina Core Stand-Alone Course (“Stand-Alones”)**
  - An approved foundational course which will meet one of the ten Carolina Core components

- **Carolina Core Overlay Approved Course (“Overlays”)**
o An overlay course is a single, three credit hour foundational course that satisfies two Carolina Core components.
  o Overlay courses are not required in the Carolina Core but offer the option of meeting two Carolina Core components with a single course.
  o A maximum of two overlay approved courses may be used to meet Carolina Core components.

- Carolina Core Integrative Course (“Integrative Course”)
  o Near the end of the program of study, a student will take an integrative course in which selected Core learning outcomes are integrated into discipline-specific study.
  o This major-specific coursework meets the Carolina Core requirement for an Integrative Course.
  o Since the Integrative Course is already required in the student’s major, no additional hours are added to Carolina Core requirements.

- Cognate
  o A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern in one or more disciplines different from the major. Cognates may be program requirements within the program of study if they are counted in the required hours to graduate. Some programs of study may not include a cognate. Undergraduate cognates require a minimum of 12 credit hours in advanced-level courses related to, but outside of the major. Cognates are variable according to what is appropriate as determined by the student and the major advisor. Thus, cognates do not appear on either the transcripts or the diplomas.

- College Requirements
  o Foundational requirements for all majors within the college. Some programs of study may require students to take specific courses that meet both college requirements and Carolina Core requirements. These courses are prescribed Carolina Core courses.

- Concentration
  o A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern within the major. They are called areas of emphasis (AOE) by the Registrar’s Office and are also known as options, emphases, tracks, (sub)fields or specializations. Undergraduate concentrations consist of no more than 18 credit hours. Concentrations appear on the transcripts, but not the diplomas.

- Corequisite
  o Corequisites are courses (being taken concurrently or successfully completed with a minimum grade of D, unless otherwise defined) that identify the skills and knowledge needed for enrollment in certain courses.

- Critical Course
  o A course with a deadline for completion or which may delay graduation because it serves as a prerequisite in a series of courses.

- Curriculum Change
  o A change to the student’s program of study, including major (and college), minor, concentration, and attribute.

- Degree (proposed definition)
- **Formal award to students upon completion of a program of study** in higher education, normally at a college or university.

- **Electives**
  - Courses open to student selection or preference that are applicable to the program of study and are counted in the required hours to graduate. Electives are program requirements within the program of study.

- **Major**
  - A program of study in a discipline that leads to a degree in that distinct specialty area at a particular level of instruction.

- **Major Courses**
  - Specific required courses in the distinct specialty area.

- **Major Electives**
  - Specific recommended courses that support the distinct specialty area.

- **Major Map**
  - A major map is a layout of required courses in a given program of study, including progression requirements and suggested course sequence to ensure a clear path to graduation. Course availability may affect the ability to follow this exact sequence.
  - Major maps are designed to assist students in planning their program of study and in comparing different programs of study.

- **Major Prerequisite**
  - A required prior condition in advance of taking major courses. Major prerequisites may consist of courses, academic standing, class standing, program admissions requirements, GPA, number of credit hours, etc.

- **Minor**
  - A series of courses that display a distinct curricular pattern in one discipline that is different from the major. Minors can be program requirements within the program of study if they are counted in the required hours to graduate. Some programs of study may not include a minor. Undergraduate minors normally require a minimum of 18 credit hours of prescribed courses. Undergraduate minors appear on transcripts, but not on the diplomas.

- **Prerequisite**
  - Prerequisites are courses (successfully completed with a minimum grade of D, unless otherwise defined) that identify the skills and knowledge needed before enrollment in certain courses.

- **Prescribed courses**
  - Specific required courses that fulfill a component of the program of study.

- **Program of Study**
  - A prescribed sequence of learning components comprising an academic program. Learning components consist of Carolina Core, College Requirements, Program Requirements and Major Requirements that lead to a degree.

- **Program Requirements**
- **Progression Requirements**
  - Integral elements of a *program of study* that establish the minimum required level of achievement for a student to continue and may include a deadline for completion. Progression requirements may consist of a minimum GPA and completion of specific courses with minimum grades.

- **Restriction**
  - Conditions that limit the enrollment in certain courses to a select group of students.
  - Restrictions may include: students of a certain academic standing, students of a certain class standing (junior, senior, etc.); students admitted to a certain college, academic program, degree, minor, or certificate; students belonging to a specific student group (Honors, Trio Scholars, etc.); students required to meet with an instructor, director, or obtain department permission.

- **Supporting Courses**
  - Courses related to and required in preparation for the major. *Supporting courses are program requirements within the program of study.*

- **Thesis/Dissertation/Capstone**
  - A culminating research experience in the distinct specialty area.

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