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Connections Are Everything

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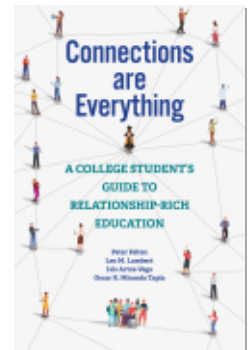
Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

Miranda Tapia, Oscar R., et al.

Connections Are Everything: A College Student's Guide to Relationship-Rich Education.

Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023.

Project MUSE. doi:10.56021/9781421443126.



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[Access provided at 5 Jun 2023 15:41 GMT from Elon University]



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College Terms to Know

Advisor. A professional who provides information, guidance, and support to students, such as an academic advisor.

Capstone. A course or experience completed near the end of your time in college, designed to help students integrate learning over time, oftentimes involving a culminating project or portfolio.

Civic engagement. Participation in the community through volunteer work, service learning, and other activities intended to identify and address issues of public concern.

Community partners. People and organizations (often nonprofit) that host students for civic engagement and typically provide mentoring and meaningful work experience, oftentimes linked to an academic class.

Counselor. A professional who helps students identify personal and academic goals, develop their strengths, and find potential solutions to problems.

Curriculum. The set of academic courses that make up the degree programs an institution is authorized to offer.

Dean. A senior academic leader, usually responsible for a school or division within the college or university.

Engaged learning. An educational approach that emphasizes active student participation in the learning experience both in and out of academic courses.

Faculty member. A professional whose responsibilities typically include teaching, research, and service to the institution; also sometimes known as a professor, instructor, or lecturer.

Finals. Exams, essays, and projects that students complete at the end of an academic term (such as an end-of-semester exam).

Food security. The measure of an individual's ability to consistently access food that is nutritious and sufficient in quantity.

Grade point average (GPA). A summary measure of academic performance based on a student's grades, often on a scale from 4.0 (A) to 0.0 (F).

Greek life. A common term for the activities of fraternities and sororities, which are student organizations principally organized around social and philanthropic activities.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Colleges or universities that were originally founded to educate students of African American descent.

Honors student. A student who is a member of an academic or other honors program.

Internship. Practical experience gained in a work setting, sometimes for academic credit or pay, and oftentimes linked to a student's academic program, such as an accounting internship.

Learning assistant. A student trained to facilitate learning by others students in a specific course or in an out-of-class setting (like a tutoring or writing center).

Learning community. A small group of students who share academic interests and who work together on organized activities; living-learning communities are programs that combine academic experiences with a residential living environment.

LinkedIn. The world's largest professional network on the internet to connect with colleagues and professional opportunities such as internships and jobs.

- Major.** The required and elective courses in a particular subject area that students specialize in while earning their degree.
- Minor.** A more limited (than in a major) set of required and elective courses in a particular subject area that students might choose to specialize in while earning their degree.
- Office hours.** Hours set by a faculty member to be available to meet with students to discuss coursework, academic interests, or other issues.
- Orientation.** A period, usually before the start of an academic term, when a variety of events are held to help new students transition to college.
- Peer.** A student.
- Peer educator.** A student trained facilitating learning by their peers (such as a learning assistant); this term is most often used to describe roles focused on students' personal development.
- Pre-med student.** A student taking classes designed to satisfy all the requirements needed for advanced education in medicine or health care.
- Prerequisite.** Something required as a prior condition for something else to happen or exist; for example, an introductory course (such as Psychology 101) is sometimes a prerequisite for enrolling in an upper-level course in a field (such as Psychology 201).
- Professor.** See Faculty member.
- Provost.** The chief academic officer of the college or university.
- Residence hall.** An on-campus facility owned by a college or university where students live.
- Resident assistant or advisor (RA).** A student leader who helps create a supportive and safe environment for students living in residence halls and other student housing.
- Scholar.** A person who has specialized expertise in a particular discipline or field and often has published books or articles in peer-reviewed journals.
- Scholarship.** Financial support awarded to a student based on academic achievement, financial need, a special talent (such as music or athletics), or other criteria.

- Semester.** An academic term of approximately fifteen weeks; there are generally two semesters (fall and spring) per academic year.
- Service learning.** An educational approach that connects academic learning with community service to both enrich learning and strengthen communities.
- Staff member.** An employee of a college or university supporting students or the institution in non-teaching areas such as student life, technology, facilities, and dining.
- Student advisory board.** A group of students who meet regularly to advise and guide a program or organization.
- Student government association (SGA).** An organization composed of elected students who represent the entire student body.
- Study abroad/study away.** An opportunity to pursue an educational program either internationally or domestically.
- Summer bridge program.** A program designed to ease the transition to college and support student success by providing students with academic skills and social resources needed to succeed in college; usually takes place in the summer or before college begins.
- Supplemental instructor.** *See* Learning assistant.
- Syllabus.** A written outline of the topics, readings, assignments, policies, and other important information related to a course, usually given to students (or posted online) at the start of the course.
- Teaching assistant.** A graduate student (sometimes an undergraduate student) who assists a faculty member with course responsibilities, such as leading small group discussions, grading, and providing one-on-one assistance to students.
- Trustees.** A governing group that determines an institution's policies and finances (including tuition), evaluates the president or chancellor, and advocates on behalf of the institution.
- Tutor.** Someone trained to provide individualized instruction to students outside of class.
- Undergraduate research.** A project conducted by an undergraduate student, with the support of a faculty mentor, that is designed to make an original intellectual or creative contribution to a discipline.

Withdrawal. A withdrawal occurs when an enrolled student acts to officially unenroll from one or more classes, typically early in the semester.

Work study. An on-campus job (often funded by the federal government) that provides part-time employment to students with financial need, allowing them to earn money while attending college.

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