

## Academic Definitions

The following are definitions of academic terms commonly used at Lansing Community College.

**Associate Degree:** The associate degree consists of a minimum of 60 semester credits in designated courses. It is earned with a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA, successful completion of the LCC General Education requirements, and is recorded on the official academic record. At least 15 semester credits must be earned in attendance at Lansing Community College.

**Certificate of Achievement:** The certificate of achievement consists of a minimum of 30 specifically designated semester credits. It is earned with a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA and is recorded on the official academic record. At least 7.5 semester credits must be earned in attendance at Lansing Community College.

**Certificate of Completion:** The certificate of completion consists of fewer than 30 specifically designated semester credits. It is earned with a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA and is recorded on the official academic record. At least one-fourth of the credits required for this certificate must be earned in attendance at Lansing Community College.

**Credit Hour:** Credit hours are based on a standard in which one credit hour is reasonably equivalent to not less than a minimum of at least fifteen hours of classroom or direct faculty instruction plus a minimum of thirty hours of out-of-class student work per semester (or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, such as a compressed course) as described in U.S. Department of Education Code of Regulations 34 CFR 600.2; or

- A. At least an equivalent amount of work as described in paragraph (1) of 34 CFR 600.2 in other College-approved learning activities (e.g., laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, or comparable academic work, etc.); or
- B. Such other standard as may be authorized and approved by the U.S. Department of Education under the Higher Education Act, as amended.

**Corequisite Course:** A corequisite course is a course that must be taken concurrently with another course.

**Course:** A course is a sequence of planned learning experiences leading to a set of expected learning outcomes. Course activities are normally scheduled over an academic semester. A student's successful completion of a course earns academic credit based on contact hours in class or in laboratories. The student also earns an academic grade which evaluates the student's success in achieving the expected outcomes. A course routinely includes tests, quizzes, a final examination, and regular out-of-class assignments. At Lansing Community College, a standard college-wide course syllabus has been created for each course. A seminar, workshop, or fee-for-service learning/training unit is not a course.

Curriculum: A curriculum is a structured program of study. Each curriculum is assigned a number and is valid for a predetermined timeframe.

Major: A major is the predominant subject area within a curriculum.

Module: A module is a component of a course offered as a separate educational package, which includes learning objectives, learning activities, and assessment procedures designed to guide learners through a specific unit of instruction.

Prerequisite: A prerequisite is a course or other requirement that must be successfully fulfilled prior to participation in a subsequent course or activity. It may also be a skill or behavior that is judged essential to learning a subsequent, more complex skill or behavior.

Program: A program is the organizational structure of the College which provides or delivers instruction and/or services.

*Revised: 10/9/12*