



Western Illinois University

DICTIONARY

Helpful words, phrases, and
places to know

Academic:

- 🐾 Academic Probation: you are on academic probation if your cumulative GPA is less than 2.00, but now low enough to warrant academic suspension. When on academic probation, you may not enroll for more than 16 credit hours per semester, or 6 credit hours over a summer term.
- 🐾 Academic Suspension: a student is academically suspended if they fail to make any satisfactory progress toward good academic standing.
- 🐾 Academic Warning: you are on academic warning status if your cumulative GPA drops below a 2.00 after a completed semester, but not so low as to warrant academic probation. When on academic warning, you may not enroll for more than 16 credit hours per semester, or 6 credit hours over a summer term.
- 🐾 Academic Year: freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior. Where you are is determined by the number of credit hours you have completed.
- 🐾 Academic: relating to education
- 🐾 Accreditation: a review process that determines if a university meets a set of standards
- 🐾 Add/Drop: being able to add or remove classes from your schedule during registration.
- 🐾 Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. Each faculty member determines his or her own policy dealing with class attendance. Therefore, if a student misses a class or classes, the student is expected to discuss the matter with the instructor, and it is up to the discretion of the instructor whether to allow a student to make up any missed assignments, exams, or projects.
- 🐾 Audit: attend (a class) informally, not for academic credit.
- 🐾 Bachelor's Degree (BA, BS, BB, BSE, BFA, BSN, BSW): a degree that a student earns typically after four or more years (120 credit hours) of study.
- 🐾 Catalog: a book of information about anywhere or anything on campus.
- 🐾 Certificate: an approved, specific set of upper-division undergraduate courses focused around an interdisciplinary or single-discipline specific theme.
- 🐾 Commencement: a ceremony celebrating students who are graduating.
- 🐾 Core Courses: a series or selection of courses that all students are required to complete before they can move on to the next level in their education or earn a diploma.
- 🐾 Credit Hours: units that are used to measure how long a student needs to study for a certain class in order to achieve the most learning outcomes. The amount of credit hours a student has completed also determines what class level they are in. Typically, one credit hour is assigned for each 50-min period class is held, though this can vary.
- 🐾 Degree Requirements: the minimum number of items needed to be completed in order to receive your degree. Examples include minimum GPA, classes needed, semester hours, and more.
- 🐾 Doctoral Degree: the highest degree one can earn, meaning that individual mastered the subject they studied.
- 🐾 Early Warning Grade: a notification a student receives about halfway through a semester, alerting students when their progress in a particular class is below C work.
- 🐾 Elective: courses that count toward your credits for graduation, but are not requirements for your particular degree of study
- 🐾 Finals Week: the last week of the semester where students are often given exams to determine how they did in the course.
- 🐾 Full-time v. Part-time:

- 🐾 A full-time student is one who is enrolled for a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit during any regular semester (Fall or Spring) or for six semester hours of credit during the Summer term.
- 🐾 A part-time student is one who takes 11 or fewer credit hours per semester.
- 🐾 General Education Courses (GE): component of the undergraduate curriculum devoted to those areas of knowledge, methods of inquiry, and ideas that the University and scholarly community believe are common to well-educated persons.
- 🐾 Grade Point Average (GPA): the total number of all honors points earned divided by the total number of credit hours attempted.
- 🐾 Graduate: a student who has already earned their bachelor's degree, and is on their way to receive a master's degree.
- 🐾 Graduation: when a student has completed all of their academic requirements for their designated major.
- 🐾 Honors Thesis: a written manuscript that presents a piece of original scholarship conducted under the guidance of a faculty mentor.
- 🐾 Honors: specialized courses taken by students who meet certain requirements, like GPA, classes already taken, and more.
- 🐾 Incomplete: a temporary symbol (I) given to a student, due to circumstances beyond their control, where they were unable to complete the requirements of the course.
- 🐾 Independent Study: a form of educational activity undertaken by an individual student with little to no supervision
- 🐾 Internship: the position of a student or trainee who works in an organization, sometimes without pay, in order to gain work experience or satisfy requirements for a qualification
- 🐾 Lecture: a large class held in a big lecture hall, where the professor talks to the class about the subject matter and the students take notes
- 🐾 Major: a specific subject that a student mainly studies in their time at university.
- 🐾 Master's Degree: a degree that students receive after completing typically two additional years of school after earning their bachelor's degree.
- 🐾 Matriculate: to get enrolled at a college or university
- 🐾 Midterm: a period in the middle of the semester where students are typically given an exam to determine their progress in the course up to that point.
- 🐾 Minor: a secondary area of specialization that typically somewhat relates to your major.
- 🐾 Non-traditional students: students with different circumstances than traditional students, including applicants without a high school diploma, not attending college right after high school, other responsibilities and/or dependents, and more.
- 🐾 No-show (FN, FW): failing a class due to not showing up at all, or stopping showing up at some point during the semester and not completing any of the classwork.
- 🐾 Orientation: also called Leatherneck Launch, it is a required program where the admitted student visits campus before move-in to get a feel of the campus, talk with already admitted students, and other incoming students.
- 🐾 Pass/Fail Course: a course that you can either only pass or fail. The grades are symbolized as P (pass) or F (fail), and do not affect the grade point average.
- 🐾 Plagiarism: presenting the work of another as one's own. This can be done through quotations without citing the source or paraphrasing without citing.

- 🐾 Practicum: provides students a bridge between the classroom and the practice environment they will soon enter
- 🐾 Prerequisites: A course that must be completed prior to enrollment in a particular course. Prerequisites may also refer to acceptable class standing, prior academic standing, permission of instructor, departmentally determined competencies, or other departmental requirements.
- 🐾 Program: a field of study.
- 🐾 Special Permission: when a student gets written permission from the instructor or the department chairperson to take a restricted class.
- 🐾 Study Abroad: allows students to complement and enhance their classroom instruction by experiencing the culture and language of another country
- 🐾 Synchronous v. Asynchronous Courses: Synchronous – professor and students are in class at the same time together. Asynchronous – students’ work and watching course materials are outside of a scheduled class time, not regularly scheduled with other students and faculty
- 🐾 Traditional v. Non-traditional Students: Traditional: students under 25 years old who enroll directly from high school, attend full-time, and do not have major life and work responsibilities
- 🐾 Transcript: an unofficial document that shows the courses a student took, their grades, and their GPA.
- 🐾 Transfer Credits: credits transferred over to WIU from previous institutions.
- 🐾 Transfer: when you are admitted to a university and were a student at a community college or another university.
- 🐾 Undecided: when a student enters college unsure of what they want to major in.
- 🐾 Undergraduate: a student who is on their way to receiving a bachelor’s degree.
- 🐾 Waitlist: something a student is added onto when something is full, and they’re waiting for empty spots. Examples include for classes and for a different residence hall room.
- 🐾 Withdraw: dropping classes or leaving the university completely
- 🐾 Withdrawal: when withdrawing from a class, there is a ten week period where you can drop a course, meaning you don’t take the course anymore. When withdrawing from the university, it means you drop all courses and leave the university as a whole.
- 🐾 Year v. Credit Level
 - 🐾 Freshman: fewer than 30 credit hours
 - 🐾 Sophomore: 30-59 credit hours
 - 🐾 Junior: 60-89 credit hours
 - 🐾 Senior: 90 hours to the completion of degree requirements

Financial:

- 🐾 Account Balance: total amount of money that a student owes the university.
- 🐾 Cost Estimator: provide you with an estimate of what your charges might be per semester.
- 🐾 Direct Deposit: a way to have refunds or paychecks from working on campus go directly into your bank account. All information regarding direct deposit is set up through STARS.
- 🐾 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of education records. FERPA allows the student to inspect and review their education

records, request a correction to those education records, control the disclosure of certain aspects of their education records, and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education.

- 🐾 Federal Pell Grant: free money given to undergrad students, determined through eligibility requirements.
- 🐾 Federal Work Study (FWS): provides additional funding for those students demonstrating financial need and supports the educational program and individual student goals.
- 🐾 Financial Aid: financial assistance throughout enrollment to help pay for college and its expenses.
- 🐾 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): a federal program used to determine a student's financial aid eligibility. There, you apply for financial aid directly from the school, loans, grants, and more.
 - 🏠 Expected Family Contribution (EFC): an index number used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Your family's tax information, assets, benefits, and more.
 - 🏠 Student Aid Report (SAR): an electronic or paper document that summarizes the information you reported on your FAFSA form. It includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), your estimated eligibility for federal student loans and Federal Pell Grants, and whether you've been selected for verification.
- 🐾 Grants: Students with financial need, as determined by the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), may be eligible to receive a grant from state or federal governments to assist with their college expenses. Grants, similar to scholarships, do not need to be repaid after college graduation
- 🐾 Loans
 - 🏠 Subsidized: a type of Federal Direct Loans where interest is not charged until enrollment ends.
 - 🏠 Unsubsidized: another type of Federal Direct Loans where interest is accumulated through enrollment.
 - 🏠 Federal: fixed-rate, federally guaranteed loans are processed through the Federal Direct Loan Program. Loans will be issued in the student's name, and the student will be responsible for repayment.
 - 🏠 Private: also called alternative loans. These are offered by banks and lending institutions as an additional source of funding for higher education. These loans are not part of the federal loan program, but they are an additional option after all other financial aid resources have been exhausted
- 🐾 Monetary Award Program (MAP Grant): free money given to students who are eligible, and eligibility is determined by many factors. Automatically applied for when applying for financial aid.
- 🐾 Overdue Balance: money that a student owes, often resulting in an administrative hold, preventing registration and access to transcripts.
- 🐾 Refund: balance remaining after loans have gone through, money given back after dropping a class in the acceptable time window, etc.
- 🐾 Registration Hold: something that prevents a student from registering for classes.
- 🐾 Registration Threshold/ Account Limit to Register: highest student account balance allowed for registration purposes

- 🐾 Scholarships: funds that do not have to be repaid. Scholarships at WIU are awarded through the Scholarship Office or various academic departments.
- 🐾 Student Worker: a student who actively has a job on campus.
- 🐾 Tuition: the cost of classes you enroll in.
- 🐾 Tuition Plan: a set of costs that a student owes the university, depending on what year/semester the student was first admitted. These rates are guaranteed throughout your time at WIU.
- 🐾 University Fees: cover the cost of your teaching and assessment as well as the use of University facilities.

General:

- 🐾 Greek Systems (Panhellenic, Fraternity, Sorority): provides opportunities and resources to assist in the learning and development of students as members of self-governing and values-based organizations
- 🐾 Illinois Resident: someone who permanently lives in the state of Illinois and uses a legal address as IL
- 🐾 Letter of Recommendation: a letter written on behalf of an applicant by someone who can vouch for that person's educational or professional performance.
- 🐾 Residence Hall: places on campus where students, regardless of academic year, can live. There's four options for dorms on Western's campus: Corbin-Olson, Thompson, Caroline Grote, and Lincoln-Washington.
- 🐾 Room and Board: on-campus housing (residence halls) and meal plan
- 🐾 Tailgate: When sports supporters gather in Q lot to eat, socialize, and have fun before a Leatherneck football game.
- 🐾 Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): evaluates the English language skills of people with a native language other than English
 - 🐾 English as a Second Language (ESL): English as a second language

Western Jargon:

- 🐾 Dead Week: Week before finals
- 🐾 GoWest: Public bus (free) transportation system
- 🐾 Leathernecks: Nickname for students at WIU
- 🐾 Leatherneck Link: Events and Student organizations at WIU
- 🐾 Rec or Rec Center: Student Recreation center
- 🐾 Rocky After Dark: Event that takes place on Hanson Field during move-in week before the fall semester starts in August
- 🐾 Sodexo: The company who provides dining hall meals
- 🐾 STARS: Website where you will register for classes, check your account balance and financial aid information, and view your grades
- 🐾 Q-Lot: the large parking lot area adjacent to both Hanson Field and the Rec Center
- 🐾 WesternOnline or WO: Website where you will turn in assignments/do classwork

Offices:

- 🐾 Admissions: office located in Sherman Hall 115 to help with anything regarding admissions.
- 🐾 Alumni Association: develops and sustains lifelong relationships with students, alumni and friends to advance the mission of the University.
- 🐾 Beu Health Center (Campus Healthcare): a full-service medical clinic offering quality outpatient health care, student health insurance, and health education and wellness education to registered Western Illinois University students.
- 🐾 Billing & Receivables: office where you can pay your balance, ask questions about account charges, and more. Located in Sherman Hall room 106.
- 🐾 Bookstore: store on campus located in the University Union that carries apparel, school supplies, textbooks, and more.
- 🐾 Financial Aid: provides all students and their families with resources for success through efficient and timely customer service, equitable disbursement of financial awards, and educational programming related to financial literacy. Located at Sherman Hall room 127.
- 🐾 First Year Advising (FYA): FYE Academic Advisors are the primary contact for all academic and class schedule questions. FYE students meet with their advisor multiple times throughout each semester to ensure they are on a successful path.
- 🐾 Graduate Studies: Graduate education encompasses research, study and teaching beyond the bachelor's degree.
- 🐾 Human Resources: develops, implements and supports programs and processes that add value to Western Illinois University and its employees, leading to improved employee welfare, growth and retention, while being committed to empowering students, faculty, and staff to lead dynamic and diverse communities.
- 🐾 Office of Public Safety (OPS): ensures the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- 🐾 Office of Retention Initiatives: focuses on the development of the student experience at Western Illinois University to enhance student success. The Retention Initiatives Area comprises the Office of Retention Initiatives, the Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement, the First Year Advising Center, and the Transition and Academic Skills Center. Located in Sherman Hall 118
- 🐾 Parking Services (Mowbray Hall): office where you register a vehicle or bike on campus, pay parking tickets, obtain parking passes, and more.
- 🐾 President's Office: Sherman Hall 209
- 🐾 Provost's Office: Sherman Hall 211
- 🐾 REACH Program: connects students with additional support to help them stay on track towards college graduation. It is an alternate admission option for students. These admission decisions are based on overall grades, core academic courses, and additional factors shared in a letter of recommendation and/or personal statement.
- 🐾 Registrar: maintains student academic records, administers registration, publishes class schedules, processes undergraduate reentry, certifies NCAA academic eligibility, administers academic room scheduling, maintains the degree audit system, processes major or minor declarations, issues official transcripts and enrollment verifications, certifies degree completion, and coordinates undergraduate commencement. Located in Sherman Hall 110
- 🐾 Scholarships: office in Sherman 308 assisting students relating to any scholarships.

- 🐾 Student Development and Success Center (SDSC): a Student Services department with three functional areas including Disability Resources, Health Education, and Student Development. Located in lower level of Memorial Hall
- 🐾 Student Employment: Student Employment administers employment programs through Regular Employment and Federal Work-Study (FWS). With approximately 2,300 Regular Student Employees and almost 250 Federal Work-Study Employees working on campus, student employees play a significant role in the day-to-day operations of Western Illinois University. Student employees perform a wide range of duties from general office assistance to those duties requiring highly specialized training in such areas as computer programming and accounting.
- 🐾 Transition and Academic Center (TASC): Lower level of Memorial Hall. TASC has Academic Success Coaches, workshops to strengthen academic skills, and tutoring services
- 🐾 University Counseling Center (UCC): provides free, personal counseling services to currently enrolled Western Illinois University undergraduate and graduate students. Located on the first floor of Memorial Hall
- 🐾 University Housing & Dining Services (UHDS): provides safe, clean, well-maintained facilities, a creative, flexible dining program and residence hall and apartment environments that are stimulating and supportive of the academic mission of the university at the most competitive price possible. Located in Seal Hall.
- 🐾 Veterans Office: The Veterans Resource Center is committed to assisting those who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military, and their family members. In collaboration with an array of University departments and community organizations, the center provides coordinated services and resources in a one-stop location to ensure that all veterans and service members are afforded the greatest opportunities for success. Located across Adams St. from Sherman Hall in the Wright House.
- 🐾 Writing Center: a place where students on campus can go to get assistance for writing anything including projects, resumes, and more. Located in the Malpass Library, 3rd floor.

People:

- 🐾 Academic Advisor: someone who helps students with their academic career, including choosing classes, organizing a degree plan, and more.
- 🐾 Academic Success Coach (ASC): A WIU staff member that helps students with many facets of learning what works best for them in learning and understanding academic materials
- 🐾 Adjunct: Part-time educator assigned to specific classes
- 🐾 Building Connections Mentor: a WIU graduate assistant or faculty/staff member who helps students acclimate to college and WIU. Each student who signs up for a mentor is assigned their own mentor.
- 🐾 Dean: the head of a college or university faculty or department.
- 🐾 Department Chair: responsible for the execution of University and college policies insofar as they concern the academic department
- 🐾 Faculty: division within a university or college comprising one subject area or a group of related subject areas, possibly also delimited by level

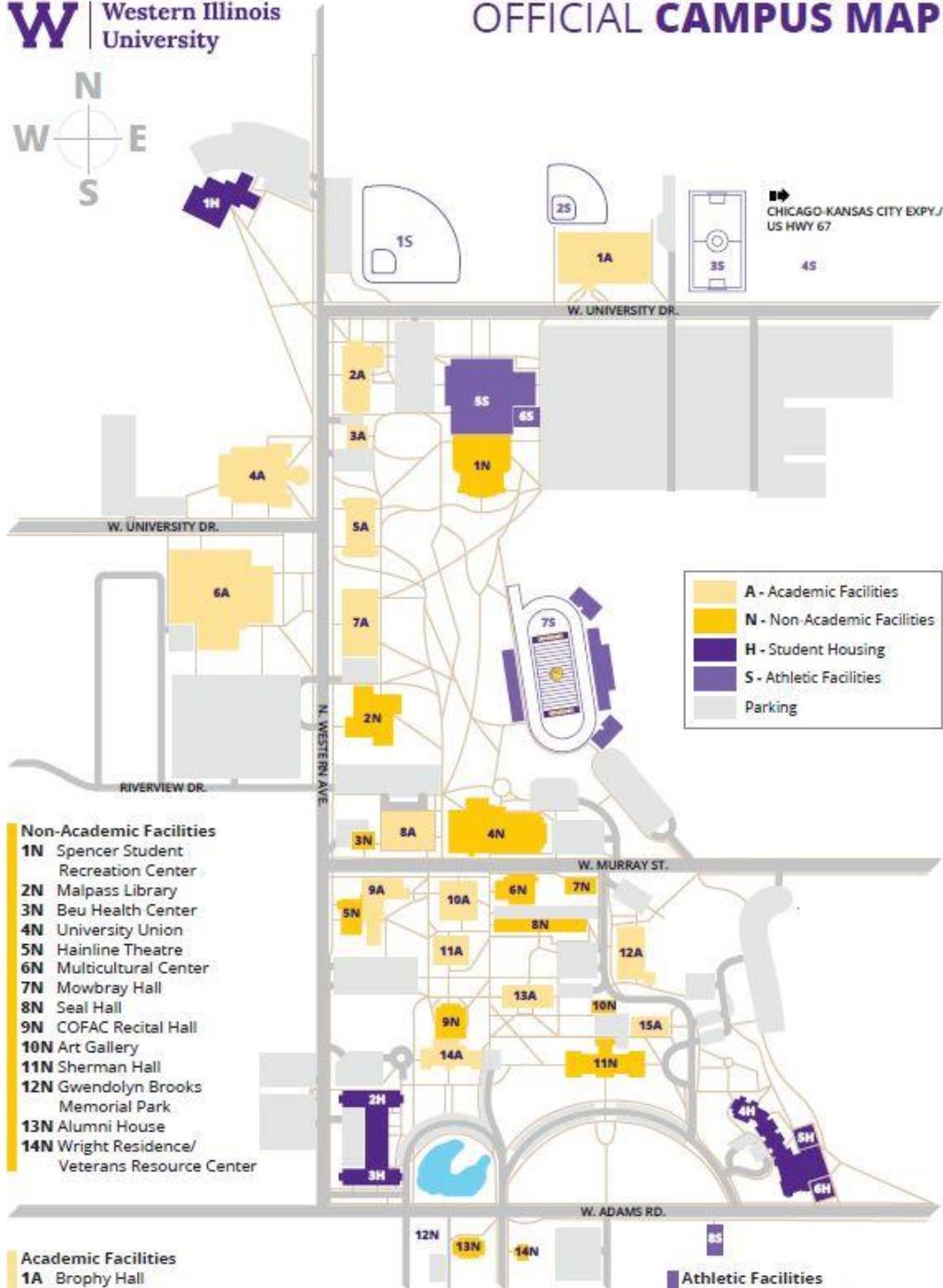
- 🐾 Graduate Assistant and Assistantships: A TA is a graduate student who teaches or helps professors in others ways to deliver course materials. A GA is a graduate student who is hired within a department that does not do direct academic work.
- 🐾 Leatherneck Success Leader: The Leatherneck Success Leader assists first-year students through their entire first-year and transition to WIU serving as peer mentors and assists with providing information on campus resources and opportunities.
- 🐾 Professor: one who teaches a class in a particular field of study.
- 🐾 Program Director: works with the Department Chair in monitoring and evaluating faculty and staff performance and advises the Chair in formulating recommendations for faculty and staff hiring, merit, equity, promotion, tenure, and termination
- 🐾 Provost: provides academic and internal leadership and serves as the primary representative for the President in his absence. The Provost and Academic Vice President is responsible for intellectual standards; academic planning and budgeting; and the recruitment, retention, and development of faculty.
- 🐾 Resident Assistant (RA): acts as a facilitator for this residence hall community and to enhance the holistic development of each of their residents. The RA represents UHDS and should act as a role model for students.
- 🐾 Staff: individuals who work all across campus for various purposes.

Buildings by General Topic:

- 🐾 Academic Departments:
 - 🏠 Accounting, Finance, Economics and Decision Sciences: Stipes Hall
 - 🏠 Agriculture: Knoblauch Hall
 - 🏠 Art and Design: Garwood Hall
 - 🏠 Biological Sciences: Waggoner Hall
 - 🏠 Broadcasting and Journalism: Sallee Hall
 - 🏠 Chemistry: Currens Hall
 - 🏠 Communication: Memorial Hall
 - 🏠 Computer Sciences: Stipes Hall
 - 🏠 Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Information Sciences: Tillman Hall
 - 🏠 Education: Horrabin Hall
 - 🏠 Engineering: Knoblauch Hall
 - 🏠 English: Simpkins Hall
 - 🏠 Environmental Studies: Tillman Hall
 - 🏠 Foreign Language and Literature: Morgan Hall
 - 🏠 General Studies: Horrabin Hall
 - 🏠 Health Sciences: Stipes Hall
 - 🏠 History: Morgan Hall
 - 🏠 Kinesiology: Brophy Hall
 - 🏠 Law Enforcement & Justice Administration: Stipes Hall
 - 🏠 Management & Marketing: Stipes Hall
 - 🏠 Mathematics: Morgan Hall
 - 🏠 Military Science: Horrabin Hall

-  Music: Browne Hall
-  Nursing: Currens Hall
-  Philosophy: Morgan Hall
-  Physics: Currens Hall
-  Political Science: Morgan Hall
-  Psychology: Waggoner Hall
-  Race, Religion, Gender, and Multidisciplinary Studies: Morgan Hall
-  Recreation, Park, and Tourism Administration: Currens Hall
-  Social Work: Stipes Hall
-  Sociology and Anthropology: Morgan Hall
-  Speech Pathology and Audiology: Memorial Hall
-  Theater and Dance: Browne Hall

-  Administrative offices: Admissions, accounts, Registrar, President, Vice-Presidents, Financial Aid, Retention Initiatives, Student Payroll, and others - Sherman Hall
-  Dining: University Union, Thompson, and Corbin-Olson
-  Health, wellness, illness: Beu Health Center
-  Intramural events: (if inside) Spencer Student Recreation Center (“the Rec”)
-  Parking passes: Mowbray Hall
-  Residence Halls: Thompson, Corbin-Olson, Caroline Grote, Lincoln, Washington
-  Sporting events: Western Hall



Non-Academic Facilities

- 1N** Spencer Student Recreation Center
- 2N** Malpass Library
- 3N** Beu Health Center
- 4N** University Union
- 5N** Hainline Theatre
- 6N** Multicultural Center
- 7N** Mowbray Hall
- 8N** Seal Hall
- 9N** COFAC Recital Hall
- 10N** Art Gallery
- 11N** Sherman Hall
- 12N** Gwendolyn Brooks Memorial Park
- 13N** Alumni House
- 14N** Wright Residence/ Veterans Resource Center

Academic Facilities

- 1A** Brophy Hall
- 2A** Waggoner Hall
- 3A** Greenhouse
- 4A** Currens Hall
- 5A** Morgan Hall
- 6A** Horrabin Hall
- 7A** Stipes Hall
- 8A** Knoblauch Hall
- 9A** Browne Hall

Academic Facilities

- 10A** Sallee Hall
- 11A** Memorial Hall
- 12A** Heating Plant Annex
- 13A** Tillman Hall
- 14A** Simpkins Hall
- 15A** Garwood Hall

Student Housing

- 1H** Thompson Hall
- 2H** Corbin Hall
- 3H** Olson Hall
- 4H** Grote Hall
- 5H** Washington Hall
- 6H** Lincoln Hall

Athletic Facilities

- 1S** Alfred D. Boyer Stadium
- 2S** Mary Ellen McKee Softball Field
- 3S** MacKenzie Soccer Field
- 4S** Vince Grady Field
- 5S** Western Hall
- 6S** Football Training Facility
- 7S** Hanson Field
- 8S** Esports Arena - DiRC