# College Vocabulary

# Part 1 Harrigan

**academic year**

Usually the September-June school year; sometimes the whole year (example: 2013-14)

**academic advisor/educational planner**

A member of the college faculty or staff (non-faculty) who assists students with planning quarter or semester schedules as well as their overall programs of study. “Educational Planners” also help students with their plans. Similar to counselor (see definition).

**adult basic education**

Skill building program in reading, English and math. (pre-90 education level)

**assessment**

A method to determine a student's skill level, such as a test in a class. Assessment can also be used for placement into a level. For example, the CPT exam is an assessment to help place students at their own appropriate starting level in English and Math.

**associate's degree (AA)**

A degree earned after successfully completing a required program of classes at the community college. It typically requires 90 or more credits and takes two years of full-time study and transfers to a university (“four year college”)

**baccalaureate or bachelor's degree (BA)**

A “four year” degree earned by following a university or “four year” college program. A "four-year college," is a college or university which is may grant a baccalaureate or bachelor's degree. You could earn such a degree by going full time for four years, or part time for more years.

**campus**

The land and buildings that a college or university uses for instruction or student services.

**catalog**

A **full** list of college regulations, programs and course descriptions, graduation requirements, and other important information. It is not the quarterly schedule!

**certificate**

A document granted by a college proving that a student has successfully completed specific coursesandrequirements to show they understand or can do something. (Compare this with a degree, which usually requires more time and coursework).

**class**

(1) A group of students meeting for specific instructional purposes. It can mean the whole series of scheduled meetings ("The English 91 class has a lot of homework”) or just one session (“There was a guest speaker in my Math 80 class today").

(2) *Class* often means the same as course ("She's taking a class (or course) in Horticulture").

(3) A group of students who start at a school together and expect to complete their studies at the same time ("He's in the graduating class of 2015").

# College Vocabulary and Spelling List

**class schedule**

A list of detailed course and section information (days, times, room numbers, etc.) for a quarter. Can be online or in a paper pamphlet. It is not the *course catalog*.

**commencement**

The ceremony at the end of a school year when students are acknowledged for completing their certificates, degrees, or diplomas. At SPSCC it is always in June.

**counselor**

A college faculty member who has special training in guidance and who assists students in academic or personal matters. You might see a counselor to get help deciding on a major or because you are having trouble at home that interferes with your performance at school.

**course**

Often means the same as class.

**credit**

A unit of measure for college work. Usually, one credit hour represents one hour of classroom attendance each week for one quarter; a five credit course usually meets five (5) hours a week and there is about 10-15 hours of homework a week for that class.

**dean**

An academic administrator or official at a college, or university--one with responsibility for students and faculty in a particular department. (Example: Mary Soltman, Dean of Humanities)

**degree**

A kind of diploma or a rank earned by a student who has successfully completed specified courses and requirements(compare with a certificate, which usually requires less coursework).

**developmental education**

Instruction that helps students improve their English and math abilities to prepare for college-level study. This is also referred to as “pre-college.”

At SPSCC developmental-level courses are numbered 90-99. (eg. Reading 91)

**diploma**

An official document issued by an educational institution indicating that a student has earned a certain degree or certificate.

**discipline**

(1) A subject relating to a specific field of academic study.

(2) Correction or punishment for disorderly or inappropriate behavior—much rarer on college campuses than in high schools….