College Courses, Translated

Adapted from Texas GEAR UP’s “Accepted! Now What?” Guide

Types of Courses

- **General Requirements**
  - Classes from different subjects (think math, humanities, science, or foreign language) that you're required to take as a part of your degree plan

- **Major Requirements**
  - Classes within your declared major or program that you need to take to earn your degree. For example, an English major will need to take a certain number of English classes.

- **Elective**
  - Optional classes that are not required by your major but can let you explore other subjects that you're interested in. For example, “History of Fashion” or “Psychology and the Good Life aka Happiness” (both of which are real classes at colleges in the U.S.)

- **Prerequisites**
  - Classes that provide an introduction to a subject and prepare you to take high level, more focused classes in that subject. You might take a History 101 course that covers all of western civilization before taking History 220 which focuses on the industrial revolution in Europe.

- **Learning Support Courses**
  - Classes designed for students who do not meet the state's minimum admissions requirements in a subject, usually Writing, Math or Reading. These classes are “corequisites” which offer extra academic support to ensure students are able to stay on track for graduation while also catching up in an academic area.

Course Formats

- **Lectures:** What you think of when you think of a college class: A professor speaks at the front of a big room and students take notes.

- **Labs:** Usually paired with lectures, these sessions are all about hands-on learning tasks. You'll often have a lab to accompany a science, math, or engineering lecture.

- **Seminars:** These classes are often small and specialized. You might take a seminar as a part of your freshman year experience, or you may have seminars as you take more advanced classes in your major.

- **Online:** A class totally delivered over the internet. Discussions can take place over email, an online portal, or a live chat.