**University Course Registration System Development Glossary**

**A**

**Academic Advisor**: A faculty member responsible for guiding students in their academic pursuits, including course selection and degree requirements.

* **Aliases**: Counselor, Academic Counselor, Guidance Counselor
* **Description**: Academic advisors play a crucial role in helping students navigate their academic path, ensuring they fulfill their degree requirements and make the most of their educational experience.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: N/A
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Academic advisors are closely related to students, as they offer personalized guidance to individual students. They may also have a connection with the university's degree program and course catalog.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Advisor ID:** A unique identification number or code assigned to academic advisors. This identifier is used for administrative and record-keeping purposes, allowing the university to associate students with their respective academic advisors**.**

* **Aliases**: Academic Advisor Identifier, Advisor Code
* **Description**: Advisor IDs streamline administrative processes, helping the university track student-advisor relationships and maintain accurate advising records.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Alphanumeric (e.g., ADV123, A4567)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Advisor IDs are closely associated with academic advisors, students, and academic advising records.
* **Range of Values**: Each advisor is assigned a unique ID.
* **Validation Rules**: Advisor IDs should be unique and follow specific formatting conventions established by the university. Additionally, they may be linked to specific academic departments or advising units.

**C**

**Course Catalog**: A comprehensive list of all available courses, including their descriptions, prerequisites, and credit hours.

* **Aliases**: Course Schedule, Course Listing, Course Offerings
* **Description**: The course catalog serves as a valuable resource for students, faculty, and administrators, enabling them to understand the curriculum, plan course selections, and ensure academic progress.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Document (Digital or Print)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: The course catalog is linked to specific courses, their descriptions, and academic departments.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Course Registration**: The process by which students enroll in courses for an upcoming academic term.

* **Aliases**: Enrollment, Class Registration
* **Description**: Course registration is a critical activity for students, as it determines their course load and progress toward degree completion. It is also essential for the university to manage class sizes and allocate resources.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Process
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Course registration is directly related to students, course sections, and the registrar's office.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Course Section**: A specific instance of a course offered in a particular term, indicating the time, location, and instructor.

* **Aliases**: Class Section, Course Offering
* **Description**: Course sections provide the details needed for students to select specific times and instructors for courses that match their schedules and preferences.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Structured Data
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Course sections are linked to the corresponding course, instructor, and classroom.
* **Range of Values**: Information about available seats and scheduling details.
* **Validation Rules**: Seat availability must be within the specified capacity of the assigned classroom.

**D**

**Degree Program**: An academic program that leads to a specific degree, such as a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree.

* **Aliases**: Academic Program, Major
* **Description**: Degree programs define the academic pathway students follow, including the courses they need to complete and any additional requirements, such as internships or capstone projects.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Text, Variable (e.g., Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Degree programs are linked to courses, majors, minors, and graduation requirements.
* **Range of Values**: Various degree program types based on the university's offerings.
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Drop/Add Period**: A designated timeframe during which students can make changes to their course schedule, such as dropping or adding courses.

* **Aliases**: Add/Drop Period, Course Adjustment Period
* **Description**: The drop/add period allows students to fine-tune their course selections, accommodating changes in their preferences, availability, or academic goals.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Timeframe
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Directly linked to course registration and student schedules.
* **Range of Values**: Start and end dates for the drop/add period.
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**F**

**Full-Time Student:** A student who is enrolled in a sufficient number of credit hours to be considered full-time, typically 12 or more credit hours per term.

* **Aliases**: FT Student, Full-Time Enrollment
* **Description**: Determining full-time or part-time status affects tuition costs, eligibility for scholarships, and access to university resources.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Numeric
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Full-time student status affects financial aid eligibility, student services, and the calculation of tuition fees.
* **Range of Values**: Typically, 12 or more credit hours.
* **Validation Rules**: A student's course load should meet or exceed the institution's definition of full-time enrollment.

**Faculty:** The academic staff responsible for teaching courses and conducting research.

* **Aliases**: Instructors, Educators
* **Description**: Faculty members are at the heart of the educational process, delivering lectures, grading assignments, and contributing to the university's research endeavors.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: N/A
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Faculty members are linked to specific courses they teach, academic departments, and students in the context of advising.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**G**

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** A numerical representation of a student's academic performance, calculated by averaging the grades received in all completed courses.

* **Aliases**: GPA Score, Academic Average
* **Description**: The GPA serves as a key indicator of a student's overall academic achievement and is used for various purposes, including eligibility for honors, scholarships, and graduate programs.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Numeric (e.g., 4.0 scale)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: GPA is related to individual courses, the student's transcript, and academic standing.
* **Range of Values**: Typically, GPA scores range from 0.0 to 4.0 or equivalent scales.
* **Validation Rules**: GPA calculation rules may include weighted GPA for honors courses or pass/fail grading policies.

**Graduation Requirements:** The set of criteria that students must fulfill to obtain their degree, including completing specific courses and achieving a minimum GPA.

* **Aliases**: Degree Requirements, Graduation Criteria
* **Description**: Graduation requirements are a roadmap that students follow to ensure they meet the academic standards necessary for degree conferral.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: N/A
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Graduation requirements are directly tied to degree programs and the student's academic record.
* **Range of Values**: Varies depending on degree program and university policies.
* **Validation Rules**: Meeting all specific requirements, such as minimum GPA and course credits, is mandatory for degree conferral.

**I**

**Instructor**: The person responsible for teaching a specific course section.

* **Aliases**: Teacher, Professor, Educator
* **Description**: Instructors are vital to the learning process, guiding students through the course content, providing feedback, and fostering an engaging learning environment.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: N/A
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Instructors are directly associated with specific course sections and academic departments.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Internship**: A practical work experience related to a student's field of study, often undertaken for academic credit.

* **Aliases**: Work Placement, Cooperative Education
* **Description**: Internships provide students with valuable insights into their chosen profession, helping them build practical skills and establish connections in the industry.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: N/A
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Internships are linked to degree programs, courses, and academic departments offering experiential learning opportunities.
* **Range of Values**: Varies by program and university policy.
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**L**

**Lecture**: A type of course instruction that typically involves a one-way delivery of content from the instructor to the students.

* **Aliases**: Lecture Session, Classroom Presentation
* **Description**: Lectures are a fundamental component of many courses, providing students with foundational information and concepts.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Teaching Method
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Lectures are associated with course sections and academic content.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Lab**: A type of course instruction that involves hands-on learning and practical exercises in a controlled environment.

* **Aliases**: Laboratory Session, Practical Class
* **Description**: Labs are critical for courses that require experimentation, data collection, and the development of practical skills.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Teaching Method
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Labs are linked to course sections, equipment, and academic departments.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: Labs often have limited capacity due to available equipment or safety considerations.

**M**

**Major**: The primary area of study a student chooses to pursue within their degree program.

* **Aliases**: Major Field, Major Concentration
* **Description**: The major is a significant part of a student's academic journey, shaping their expertise and career prospects.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Text, Variable (e.g., Computer Science, Psychology)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Majors are linked to degree programs, courses, and graduation requirements.
* **Range of Values**: Varied based on the university's offerings.
* **Validation Rules**: Meeting specific course and credit requirements associated with the chosen major.

**Minor**: A secondary area of study that complements the student's major.

* **Aliases**: Minor Field, Minor Concentration
* **Description**: Minors add versatility to a student's education and can enhance their qualifications for specific career paths.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Text, Variable (e.g., Business Administration, Spanish)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Minors are linked to degree programs and courses, serving as a complementary area of study.
* **Range of Values**: Varied based on the university's offerings.
* **Validation Rules**: Meeting specific course and credit requirements associated with the chosen minor.

**P**

**Prerequisite**: A course or requirement that must be completed before a student can enroll in a more advanced course.

* **Aliases**: Precondition, Entry Requirement
* **Description**: Prerequisites serve as a structured sequence of learning, guiding students through a curriculum in a logical and progressive manner.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Course Title or Requirement
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Prerequisites are directly related to the courses they precede and are crucial for academic planning.
* **Range of Values**: Specific course titles or requirements.
* **Validation Rules**: Students must successfully complete all specified prerequisites to enroll in advanced courses.

**R**

**Registration Period**: The timeframe during which students can sign up for courses for an upcoming academic term.

* **Aliases**: Enrollment Period, Registration Window
* **Description**: The registration period is a critical phase for students to secure their desired courses, ensuring that they can progress toward their academic goals.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Timeframe
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Registration periods are associated with course registration and academic calendars.
* **Range of Values**: Start and end dates for registration, as determined by the university.
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Registrar**: An administrative office responsible for managing student records, including course registrations and transcripts.

* **Aliases**: Office of the Registrar, Registration Office
* **Description**: The registrar's office serves as the custodian of academic records, supporting students, faculty, and other administrative units with essential services.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Administrative Office
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: The registrar's office is closely linked to students, faculty, course sections, and academic departments.
* **Range of Values**: N/A
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**Room Capacity**: The maximum number of students that a specific classroom or lecture hall can accommodate.

* **Aliases**: Seating Capacity, Maximum Occupancy
* **Description**: Room capacity information helps determine the suitability of a location for hosting classes, examinations, and events.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Numeric (e.g., 50 students, 150 seats)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Room capacity is associated with specific course sections and scheduling.
* **Range of Values**: Varies by room or venue and may depend on factors such as seating arrangement.
* **Validation Rules**: Course sections should not exceed the specified room capacity to ensure safety and comfort.

**S**

**Semester**: A half of an academic year, typically divided into fall and spring terms.

* **Aliases**: Term, Academic Semester
* **Description**: Semesters provide a standardized framework for organizing coursework and assessing academic progress.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Timeframe
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Semesters are closely tied to course scheduling, registration periods, and academic calendars.
* **Range of Values**: Typically two semesters per academic year, but may vary based on the university's academic calendar.
* **Validation Rules**: Courses and registrations should align with the designated semester.

**Student ID**: A unique identification number assigned to each student for administrative and record-keeping purposes.

* **Aliases**: ID Number, Student Identification
* **Description**: Student IDs streamline administrative processes, including registration, record-keeping, and authentication of student identities.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Alphanumeric or Numeric (e.g., ABC12345, 123456)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Student IDs are associated with individual students and their academic records.
* **Range of Values**: Unique for each student.
* **Validation Rules**: Student IDs should be unique, and their format may follow specific patterns or standards.

**Syllabus**: A document outlining the course objectives, content, reading materials, assignments, and assessment methods.

* **Aliases**: Course Outline, Class Syllabus
* **Description**: The syllabus provides students with essential information about what to expect in the course, helping them prepare and manage their time effectively.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Document (Digital or Print)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Syllabi are directly linked to course sections and instructional content.
* **Range of Values**: Content can vary by course and instructor, but typically includes course objectives, reading lists, assessment methods, and grading scales.
* **Validation Rules**: N/A

**T**

**Transcript**: An official record of a student's academic performance, including courses taken, grades earned, and degree(s) conferred.

* **Aliases**: Academic Record, Educational Transcript
* **Description**: Transcripts are vital for verifying a student's academic history, and they are often required for graduate school applications, job opportunities, and professional licensing.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Document (Digital or Print)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Transcripts are directly linked to students, courses, and graduation records.
* **Range of Values**: Various data points, including course titles, grades, credits, and degree information.
* **Validation Rules**: Transcripts should accurately reflect a student's academic record and comply with university policies.

**Term**: An academic period within the university year, which can be a semester, quarter, or other specified time frame.

* **Aliases**: Academic Term, School Year Segment
* **Description**: Terms provide a structured timeline for the organization of courses, student registration, and administrative processes.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Timeframe
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Terms are associated with course scheduling, registration periods, and academic calendars.
* **Range of Values**: The university defines the number and structure of terms in an academic year.
* **Validation Rules**: Courses and academic activities should align with the designated term.

**Transfer Credits**: Credits earned at another educational institution that are accepted by the university for the purpose of fulfilling degree requirements.

* **Aliases**: Transferable Credits, Credit Transfer
* **Description**: Transfer credits allow students to bring their previous coursework into their current academic journey, potentially reducing the time and effort required to earn a degree.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: Numeric (Credit Hours)
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Transfer credits are associated with the courses they are transferring from and the degree program requirements.
* **Range of Values**: Varies based on the courses transferred and university policies.
* **Validation Rules**: Transfer credits must meet the university's specific criteria for acceptance, including content and grade requirements.

**W**

**Waitlist**: A list of students who are interested in enrolling in a course that is currently at full capacity. Students on the waitlist may be admitted if a spot becomes available.

* **Aliases**: Waiting List, Course Standby
* **Description**: Waitlists help manage course demand and provide students with the opportunity to secure a spot in a popular course if space becomes available.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: List
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: Waitlists are linked to course registration and student schedules.
* **Range of Values**: The number of students on a waitlist can vary based on course popularity and seat availability.
* **Validation Rules**: Admission from the waitlist typically follows a "first-come, first-served" principle, and students must meet any prerequisites or restrictions associated with the course.

**Data Dictionary Attributes**

* **Aliases**: Alternative names or terms that may be used to refer to the same concept.
* **Description**: Additional information or context about the term to provide a deeper understanding.
* **Format (Type, Length, Unit)**: The data type, character length, and measurement unit if applicable, for data associated with the term.
* **Relationships to Other Elements**: How the term is related to other terms or entities within the system, such as the relationship between a student and their course registration.
* **Range of Values**: The allowable values or acceptable range for data associated with the term, for example, the range of possible credit hours.
* **Validation Rules**: Specific rules and criteria that data associated with the term must meet to be considered valid, which can include format, range, or other constraints.

These terms and attributes collectively serve as the foundation for developing and maintaining the university course registration system, guiding the system's behavior, and ensuring that it meets the requirements of both students and administrative staff.