



# WPI Acronyms

**As you can tell, we prefer initials at WPI.**

**CONTACT**

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If you're new to WPI, you may think we speak in a secret code. What is the difference is between MQP and IQP? Confused when someone directs you to the ATC? What is a BME major?

Many elements of our academic program, along with our campus locations and buildings, have long names, so we commonly refer to them by their initials. The list below includes some of the most common acronyms, abbreviations, and shorthand used in the WPI community .

AE	Aerospace Engineering
ATC	Academic Technology Center
BB	Biology & Biotechnology (sometimes also BBT)
BME	Biomedical Engineering
CA	Community Advisors: Upperclass students who serve as peer mentors for a group of 20-30 first year students. Previously (and still sometimes referred to as) OLs (Orientation Leaders).
CAO	Committee on Academic Operations (undergraduate)
CAP	Committee on Academic Policy (undergraduate)
CASL	Committee on Advising and Student Life (pronounced "castle")
CBC	Chemistry & Biochemistry
CCAC	Center for Communication Across the Curriculum or "Writing Center" (In addition to peer tutoring services, provides faculty development services)
CDC	Career Development Center (for students and alumni)

CDR	Completion of Degree Requirement form. Must be submitted for IQPs and MQPs.
CEE	Civil and Environmental Engineering
CEI	Collaborative for Entrepreneurship & Innovation (a resource for entrepreneurial speakers, innovation and entrepreneurship lending library, e-competition judges, and entrepreneurial curriculum development)
CGSR	Committee on Graduate Studies and Research
CHB	Campus Hearing Board (student judicial system)
CHE	Chemical Engineering (sometimes still referred to as CM)
COAP	Committee On Appointments & Promotions (pronounced "cope")
COG	Committee On Governance ("committee on committees", runs elections)
CPE	Corporate and Professional Education
CS	Computer Science
CTAF	Committee on Tenure & Academic Freedom (pronounced "see-taff")
DAKA	Pronounced "day-kuh." Former name of the campus dining service provider, which is now, properly, Chartwell's. Student lexicon continues to use DAKA, as in "Go to DAKA."
ECE	Electrical and Computer Engineering
EMSEP	Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Engineering Program: Designed to increase the access to educational opportunities for underrepresented students of African, Latino, and American Indian descent.
EVE	Environmental Engineering
FAP	Committee on Administrative and Financial Policy
FBC	Fringe Benefits Committee
FFT	Food For Thought (Morgan Center lunchtime seminar series)
IS	Innovation Studio

FPE	Fire Protection Engineering
FRC	Faculty Review Committee
GSG	Graduate Student Government or sometimes GSO (Graduate Student Organization)
HUA	Humanities & Arts
IE	Industrial Engineering
IFC	Interfraternity Council
IGSD	Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division (administers the IQP and Global Projects Program)
IMGD	Interactive Media and Game Development
INSIGHT	Fall semester transitional and community-building program for all first-year students. Insight teams live on the same floor of a residence hall and are assigned a Community Advisor (CA), Resident Advisor (RA), and Faculty academic advisor (FA).
IQP	Interactive Qualifying Project (interdisciplinary project typically completed in junior year)
IRB	Institutional Review Board (provides oversight of human subjects research.
ISO	International Student Organization
ISP	Independent Study Project (typically a project-like academic activity conducted one-on-one or with a small group of students)
IT	Information Technology
MA	Mathematical Sciences
MASH	Math and Science Help ("mash" tutors), primarily used by first-year students in Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics
ME	Mechanical Engineering
MFE	Manufacturing Engineering (a graduate degree program within the Mechanical Engineering)
MG	Management (the department is now known as the School of Business)

MGE	Management Engineering
MIS	Management Information Systems
MQP	Major Qualifying Project (senior project)
MTE	Materials Science and Engineering (a graduate degree program within the Mechanical Engineering)
NR	No Record. WPI's grade that encompasses the traditional "D" and "F" grades.
NSO	New Student Orientation
OAS	Office of Accessibility Services
OASIS	Offering Acceptance, Support and Inclusion to Students A cultural center located at 20 Schussler Road, intended to give minority/marginalized students a place to build a community and to provide a centralized location for all students to learn about culture.
OSP	Office of Sponsored Programs
PANHEL	Panhellenic Council (sororities)
PH	Physics
PLA	Peer Learning Assistant (also referred to as "senior tutors" or "senior assistants" in some departments)
PW	Professional Writing (interdisciplinary program)
RA	Resident Advisor in residence halls (using "dorm" is discouraged!) or Research Assistant (in reference to graduate students)
RBE	Robotics Engineering
ROTC	Reserve Officers Training Corps (typically pronounced "rot see")
SGA	Student Government Association
SOCComm	Social Committee. Funds and organizes student events.
SSPS	Social Science and Policy Studies

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SUFF	Short for Sufficiency, the former Humanities & Arts requirement for all students. The Sufficiency was replaced in 2006-07 with a new Humanities & Arts Requirement that culminates in an Inquiry Seminar or Practicum. Time will tell whether "Suff" lives on in the student lexicon.
TA	Teaching Assistant or Teaching Assistantship (referring to graduate students)
UOAC	Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (typically pronounced "you-awk")

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