# College Vocabulary

# Part 1 Harrigan

**academic year**

Usually the September-June school year; sometimes the whole year (2008-09)

**advisor/educational planner**

A member of the college faculty or staff 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-developmental education level)

**assessment**

A method to determine a student's skill level, such as an exam in a class. Also, this can be a placement test. 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.

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

A four year degree which can often be earned by following a four-year instructional program. A "four-year college," is a college or university which is may grant a baccalaureate or bachelor's degree.

**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.

**certificate**

A document granted by a college proving that a student has successfully completed specific coursesandrequirements (compare with 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 ("Mr. Olson is teaching two English 91 classes this quarter") 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 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 2010").

# 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.

**commencement**

The ceremony at the end of a school year when students receive their degrees or diplomas.

**counselor**

A member of the college faculty who has special training in guidance and who assists students in academic or personal matters. See also advisor.

**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.

**dean**

An academic administrator or official at a college, or university--one with responsibility for students and faculty

**degree**

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

**developmental education**

Instruction that helps students improve their English and math abilities and prepare for college-level study.

At SPSCC developmental-level courses are numbered 80-99. (eg. Reading 91)

**diploma**

An official document issued by a college or university 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 behavior on campus.