

# Guide to Acronyms at WPI\*

(\*We Prefer Initials)

## Governance\*

CAO	Committee on Academic Operations (undergraduate)
CAP	Committee on Academic Policy (undergraduate)
CASL	Committee on Advising and Student Life (pronounced like “castle”)
CGSR	Committee on Graduate Studies and Research
CHB	Campus Hearing Board (student judicial system)
COAP	Committee on Appointments & Promotions (pronounced “cope”)
COG	Committee on Governance (“committee on committees,” runs elections)
CTAF	Committee on Tenure & Academic Freedom (pronounced “see-taff”)
EDC	Educational Development Council
FAP	Committee on Administrative and Financial Policy
FBC	Fringe Benefits Committee
FRC	Faculty Review Committee
UOAC	Undergraduate Outcomes Assessment Committee (typically pronounced “you-awk”)

*\*For descriptions of each committee’s responsibilities, see the Faculty Handbook, available online at [www.wpi.edu/Campus/Faculty/](http://www.wpi.edu/Campus/Faculty/)*

## Majors, Departments & Schools, and Degree Programs

AE	Aerospace Engineering (a program within the Mechanical Engineering department)
BBT	Biology & Biotechnology (sometimes just BB)
BCB	Bioinformatics & Computational Biology (interdisciplinary degree program between BBT, CS, and MA)
BME	Biomedical Engineering (sometimes also BE)
CBC	Chemistry & Biochemistry (CH is also used)
CEE	Civil and Environmental Engineering department
CHE	Chemical Engineering (sometimes still referred to by its former designation, CM)
CS	Computer Science
ECE	Electrical and Computer Engineering
EVE	Environmental Engineering program
EVS	Environmental Sciences program
FPE	Fire Protection Engineering
HUA	Humanities & Arts
IE	Industrial Engineering (undergraduate degree program within School of Business)
IGSD	Interdisciplinary & Global Studies Division (administers the IQP and the Global Perspectives Program)
IMGD	Interactive Media and Game Development program (joint program of CS and HUA)
MA	Mathematical Sciences
MAC	Actuarial Mathematics program
ME	Mechanical Engineering
MFE	Manufacturing Engineering (graduate degree programs within Mechanical Engineering)
MTE	Materials Science & Engineering (graduate degree programs within Mechanical Engineering)
MG	Management (undergraduate degree program in School of Business)
MGE	Management Engineering (undergraduate degree program in School of Business)
MIS	Management Information Systems (undergraduate degree program in School of Business)
PH	Physics
PSS	Psychological Sciences degree program within SPSS
PW	Professional Writing (interdisciplinary program, PWR may also be used)
RBE	Robotics Engineering
SoB	May start to be used for School of Business
SSPS	Social Science and Policy Studies

## Academic Operations Terminology

CDR	Completion of Degree Requirement form (must be submitted for IQPs and MQPs)
GPS	Great Problems Seminars (option for first year students)

IQP	Interactive Qualifying Project (interdisciplinary project typically completed in junior year)
ISP	Independent Study (typically a project-like academic activity conducted one-on-one or with a small group of students)
MQP	Major Qualifying Project (senior project)
NR	No Record. WPI's undergraduate grade that encompasses the traditional "D" and "F" grades.
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.

### **Faculty or Campus-Wide Services**

ATC	Academic Technology Center
CCAC	Center for Communication Across the Curriculum, now the "Writing Center" (peer tutoring services and faculty development programs)
CCC	Computing and Communications Center
CDC	Career Development Center (for students and alumni)
CPE	Corporate and Professional Education
FFT	Food for Thought (lunchtime seminar series run by the Morgan Teaching & Learning Center)
IRB	Institutional Review Board (provides oversight of human subjects research)
myWPI	WPI's learning management system on the Blackboard platform
OSP	Office of Sponsored Programs

### **Student-Related Positions, Groups, Locations, Events, and Services\***

CA	Community Advisors: Upperclass students who serve as peer mentors for a group of 20-30 first year students. Previously known as OLs (Orientation Leaders).
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."
EMSEP	Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Engineering Program (increases access to educational opportunities for underrepresented students of African, Latino, and American Indian descent)
GSG	Graduate Student Government (or GSO, Graduate Student Organization)
IFC	Intrafraternity Council
ISO	International Student Organization
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).
MASH	Math and Science Help ("mash" tutors), primarily used by first-year students in Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics
NSO	New Student Orientation
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)
ODS	Office of Disability Services (until recently, called DSO for Disabilities Services Office, so DSO may stick around for a while)
Panhel	Panhellenic Council (governing body for sororities)
PAC	Peer Academic Coach
PLA	Peer Learning Assistant (referred to as "senior tutors" or SAs "senior assistants" in some departments)
RA	Resident Advisor in residence halls (using "dorm" is discouraged!)
RA	Research Assistant or Research Assistantship (referring to graduate students)
ROTC	Reserve Officers Training Corps (typically pronounced "rot see")
SGA	Student Government Association
SocComm	Social Committee (funds and organizes student events)
SSN	Student Support Network
TA	Teaching Assistant or Teaching Assistantship (referring to graduate students)

\* There are dozens upon dozens of student groups that use acronyms. For a complete listing see [www.wpi.edu/Admin/SAO/Orgs/clubs.html](http://www.wpi.edu/Admin/SAO/Orgs/clubs.html).