

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”, undergrad and grad)
CGSR	Committee on Graduate Studies and Research
CHB	Campus Hearing Board (student judicial system)
CITP	Committee on Information Technology Policy
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 Financial and Administrative 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 web.wpi.edu/Campus/Faculty/*

Majors, Departments, and Degree Programs

AE	Aerospace Engineering (a program within the Mechanical Engineering department)
AREN	Architectural Engineering (a program within the Civil & Environmental 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
DS	Data Science (interdisciplinary graduate degree program including CS, MA, FSB)
ECE	Electrical and Computer Engineering
EVE	Environmental Engineering program
EVS	Environmental Sciences program
FPE	Fire Protection Engineering
FBS	Foisie Business School
HUA	Humanities & Arts department
IE	Industrial Engineering (undergraduate degree program within the Foisie Business School)
IGSD	Interdisciplinary & Global Studies Division (administers the IQP and the Global Projects Program)
IMGD	Interactive Media and Game Development program (joint program of CS and HUA)
LS&T	Learning Sciences and Technologies (interdisciplinary graduate degree program including CS, SSPS, MA)
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 Foisie School of Business)
MGE	Management Engineering (undergraduate degree program in Foisie School of Business)
MIS	Management Information Systems (undergraduate degree program in Foisie 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
SSPS	Social Science and Policy Studies

Academic Operations Terminology

CDR	Completion of Degree Requirement form (must be submitted for IQPs and MQPs)
GPP	Global Projects Program (umbrella term for any project completed at an off-campus location)
GPS	Great Problems Seminars (two course sequence, interdisciplinary project-based option for first year students)
GQP	Graduate Qualifying Project (option or requirement in a small number of master's degree programs to designate a capstone experience as an alternative to a traditional thesis)
ID 2050	The course number most commonly heard at WPI? "ID" means interdisciplinary, although the course is titled <i>Social Science Research for the IQP</i> . Students completing their IQP off-campus in a single term are required to take this writing-intensive preparation course the term before they go.
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.
PQP	Pre-Qualifying Project, usually 1/6 unit. Most often taken in parallel with ID 2050 as preparation for an off-campus IQP. Sometimes used for as preparation for one-term off-campus MQPs as well.

Faculty or Campus-Wide Services

ATC	Academic Technology Center
CxC	Communication Across the Curriculum (includes the Writing Center, which provides peer tutoring services, and offers faculty development programs)
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)
FLC	Faculty Learning Community (grants program with an annual submission cycle)
IRB	Institutional Review Board (provides oversight of human subjects research)
ITS	Information Technology Services, may also be referred to as Helpdesk
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.
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."
GSG	Graduate Student Government
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 an Insight Advisor (faculty or staff member).
MASH	Math and Science Help: group review sessions run by upperclass "mash leaders" for courses in Calculus and Differential Equations, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Physics
NSO	New Student Orientation
ODS	Office of Disability Services
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")
SDCC	Student Development and Counseling Center
SGA	Student Government Association (undergraduate)
SocComm	Social Committee (funds and organizes student events)
SSN	Student Support Network
TA	Teaching Assistant or Teaching Assistantship (referring to graduate students)

* There are more than 200 student clubs and organizations, many of which use acronyms. For a complete listing see <https://www.wpi.edu/student-experience/getting-involved/clubs-organizations>