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 SSPS
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 Social Science Research for the IQP. 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