

DARS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary of terms is a compilation of commonly used DARS terminology and was established as a guide for new encoders, DARS users, and/or individuals interacting with users.

Term	Description
“A” Line	‘A’cceptable course line of a sub-requirement. Indicates course options available to meet specific requirements (real course or “course-like” elements) to compare with the student’s coursework.
Academic Program	The components that define a program (such as degree or certificate) and what requirements a student must meet in order to graduate.
Articulation	See <i>Transfer Course Articulation</i> .
Audit	Report produced by DARS for a single student. Shows the student’s coursework acceptability and applicability toward meeting degree requirements. The audit report shows which requirements, sub-requirements, and courses are completed and which are left to complete for the student’s degree program.
Communication (COM) Table	Contains all of the control values, institutionally defined text, and parameters needed to run an audit.
Condition Codes	Single-character values that are used to identify some extra attribute that needs to be tested before the course is accepted into a requirement or sub-requirement.
DARS (Degree Audit Reporting System)	An automated system for tracking a student’s academic progress toward completing a program in either printed or on-line format.
Encoder	The person who is responsible for the interpretation of policies and requirements at their institution into terminology that the DARS program can use to perform transfer course articulation and/or to produce a degree audit report.
Exception	Refers to an academic exception for a particular student which will affect the audit results for that student. Allows you to define specific requirements for an individual such as: course waiver, individualized program requirements, and course substitutions.
Grade Table	Contains the grades used at your institution and the information needed to define the meaning of each grade to DARS.
Grouping Requirements	Allows you to restrict course usage in DARS. DARS assumes that a course can be used everywhere in an audit unless you control it. You can assign the same group code to a set of requirements and it tells DARS that a course may be applied

	only once within that set of requirements.
Hungry Elective	An optional requirement encoded to facilitate course adjustments within the audit and to provide a place to report nonessential coursework.
Institutional Reference Table	Defines characteristics of credit (quarters, semesters, units) and grades for institutions in Transfer Articulation processing.
Marker Requirements	Requirements which are placed in a student's audit when they apply to that student. The marker requirements is a place holder designated with a "\$".
Pseudo Course	A unique labeling convention used in DARS for the sub-requirements you are defining. Used to identify a sub-requirements that is modified with an exception or to match a transfer course to a sub-requirement.
"R" Line	'R'ejected courses for the sub-requirement. Indicates the course options that will not meet a specific requirement.
Requirement	A component of an audit program which typically requires a minimum of credits, courses, GPA, and/or sub-requirements to be complete. May also be a summary component, text component, conditional or optional component.
Sub-requirement	A building block or individual piece of the requirement. Deals with specific courses and combinations necessary to complete requirements. May also be text, conditional, or optional component.
Transfer Course Articulation	The process of evaluating transfer credits/courses from another institution. Two tables enable DARS to articulate courses taken from another institution: Institutional Reference table and Transfer Articulation table.
Transfer Articulation Table	The table which will be populated with articulation rules to evaluate transfer courses to home courses in one to one, many to one, one to many, and many to many articulation formats.

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