Appendix A: Glossary of Princeton Terms

The following list of Princeton terms is by no means exhaustive, but is designed to help employees sort out some of the more common expressions heard around the campus. A more comprehensive encyclopedia of “Princetoniana” is published in the book *A Princeton Companion*, available online at [http://etcweb.princeton.edu/campuswww/companion](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/campuswww/companion).


**ALEXANDER HALL.** See Richardson Auditorium.

**ALUMNI DAY.** A day of lectures, ceremonies, and other events held in February that brings more than 1,200 alumni back to campus.

**ART MUSEUM.** A teaching museum for the Department of Art and Archaeology as well as a cultural resource for the entire University and surrounding community.

**BICKER.** The process through which eating clubs select upperclassmen for membership. See Eating Clubs.

**CAMPUS CLUB.** A gathering space for Princeton undergraduate and graduate students. The building includes spaces that can be reserved by student organizations for dinners, receptions, musical, and other cultural and social events.

**701 CARNEGIE.** Home of the Office of Finance and Treasury and the Office of Information Technology.

**CHANCELLOR GREEN.** A building across from Nassau Hall; a lower-level café run by Campus Dining serves throughout the day. First a library, later a pub, the rotunda in Chancellor Green is one of Princeton's most inviting spaces. Chancellor Green, built in 1873 and now part of the Gerhard Andlinger Center for the Humanities, beckons students with furnishings designed by famed Princeton architect Michael Graves.

**CLASS DAY.** A ceremony, organized by members of the graduating class, that takes place the day before Commencement and honors the experiences of Princeton seniors.

**CLIO.** Clio Hall, twin of and located next to Whig Hall; the marble buildings are modeled after a Greek temple.

**CHAPEL.** The University Chapel. The 1925 Gothic Revival structure that serves as the site of religious services as well as large campus gatherings, such as Opening Exercises and Baccalaureate; located near the center of campus.

**THE COLLEGES.** See Residential Colleges.

**COMMITTEE OF THREE.** More formally known as the Faculty Committee on Appointments and Advancements. Consists of six faculty members and makes decisions on tenure, appointments, and other faculty matters.

**CPUC.** Council of the Princeton University Community. A coordinating council of students, faculty, staff, and administrators that serves as a forum for the discussion of issues and examines and makes recommendations on questions of policy that govern and affect the welfare of the University community.

**DILLON.** The University gymnasium used for intramural and recreational athletic activities.

**DOD.** Dod Hall, a dormitory.

**DODDS AUDITORIUM.** A large lecture room in Robertson Hall used for many public events.
DINKY. New Jersey Transit train that shuttles people to/from Princeton Junction train station, which services the Northeast Corridor line.

E-QUAD. The “Engineering Quadrangle,” home of the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

EATING CLUBS. Autonomously owned and student-managed eating and social clubs where many upperclassmen dine. These are located on Prospect Avenue and include Cap and Gown, Charter Club, Cloister Inn, Colonial Club, Cottage Club, Ivy Club, Quadrangle Club, Terrace Club, Tiger Inn, and Tower Club.

FIELDS CENTER. The Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding. Located at 58 Prospect Avenue, it assists the University in its charge to maintain an environment that acknowledges, respects, and promotes diversity by providing cultural, social, political advocacy, and leadership development opportunities for students. Programming is also offered to faculty and staff.

FIRESTONE. The Firestone Library. The main University library, although there are many separate branch libraries around the University.

FITZRANDOLPH GATE. The main entrance to campus off Nassau Street. Opened to the public in 1970, a myth has evolved suggesting that undergraduates who use this portal to exit from campus prior to Commencement will jeopardize their chances of graduating on time.

FRESHMAN SEMINAR. The freshman seminar program offers first-year students the opportunity to work with a professor and a limited number of students—chosen on the basis of a short essay application—on a topic of special interest.

FRICK CHEMISTRY LABORATORY. World-class state-of-the-art scientific research laboratory, opened in 2010 to house the Department of Chemistry.

FRIEND CENTER. The Friend Center for Engineering Education; it houses high-tech classrooms, a 250-seat auditorium, and the Engineering Library.

FRIST CAMPUS CENTER. A gathering place for the campus community; includes classrooms, faculty offices, lecture halls, performance spaces, student government offices, all undergraduate student mailboxes, computer clusters, meeting spaces, and a variety of dining services and a ticket office. Frist also provides diverse programming for the campus community.

GSG. Graduate Student Government. Governing body that seeks to represent and serve the needs of the graduate student body at Princeton University.

HEALTHIER PRINCETON. Healthier Princeton seeks to provide a campus environment and a range of programs that sustain and enhance the physical, psychological, and emotional health of undergraduates, graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and staff, and that assist them in achieving an appropriate balance between work and personal/family life. Refer to www.princeton.edu/healthier.

HONOR SYSTEM/HONOR CODE. Princeton students take all written examinations under the honor system—that is, without a faculty proctor. Students assume full responsibility for honesty and conclude each examination with a written pledge that they have abided by the honor code.

JADWIN. There are two “Jadwins,” although the term most frequently refers to Jadwin Gymnasium, the University’s varsity athletic facility. The other “Jadwin” is Jadwin Hall, home of the Department of Physics.


LEWIS CENTER FOR THE ARTS. Home to the programs in creative writing, dance, theater, and visual arts as well as to film and video, musical theater, and Princeton Atelier; has close ties to other academic programs and centers as well as to the Art Museum and the McCarter Theatre Center.
LEWIS-SIGLER INSTITUTE. Housed in the Carl Icahn Laboratory, the institute was established to promote innovation in research and teaching at the intersection of modern biology and the quantitative sciences.

LOWRIE HOUSE. The Walter Lowrie House, 83 Stockton Street, the president’s home.

MACLEAN HOUSE. Home of the Alumni Association on the west side of the front campus green. Having been constructed in 1756, it is the oldest building on campus, along with Nassau Hall.

McCARTER THEATRE. Tony Award-winning theater that presents its own professional drama series each year. McCarter also brings dance troupes, films, and concerts to campus.

McCOSH. There are two: the McCosh Health Center, named for Isabella McCosh, and McCosh Hall, home of the Department of English, named for Isabella’s husband, James McCosh, Princeton’s eleventh president.

MACMILLAN. Building that houses the Department of Facilities.

MUDD LIBRARY. Houses the University archives and Princeton’s collection of public policy papers.

NASSAU HALL. The University’s central administrative building and the oldest building on campus. Built in 1756; designated as a national historic landmark in 1960.

185 NASSAU STREET. The current home of The Lewis Center for the Arts with its programs in Dance, Theater, Visual Arts, and the Princeton Atelier; formerly a Princeton borough public school building, acquired by the University in 1966.

NEW SOUTH. The seven-story building where several University administrative offices are located, including the Office of Human Resources, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Housing and Real Estate Services, TigerCard Office, Office of Transportation and Parking, Office of the Vice President for University Services, Princeton University Federal Credit Union, and the University Financial Service Center. The Program in Creative Writing as well as dance and theater studios are also located in New South.

OIT. The Office of Information Technology. Oversees Princeton’s academic and administrative systems and the information technology infrastructure that supports them. The main OIT office is located at 701 Carnegie Center and the OIT Solutions Center is located in the Frist Campus Center.

ORANGE KEY TOURS. The student-run Orange Key guide service provides year-round tours of the campus. Weekday tours depart from Clio Hall; weekend tours begin at the Frist Campus Center. Refer to www.princeton.edu/~oktour/orangekey.

ORPA. Office of Research and Project Administration. The office that administers research and government grants to the University.

P-RADE. Annual alumni parade that takes place during Reunions.

PALMER HOUSE. Located at Bayard Lane and Nassau Street, Palmer House serves as Princeton University’s official guest house. Within walking distance of campus, Palmer House is also available for meetings and conferences.

PAW. Princeton Alumni Weekly, the alumni magazine published throughout the year.

PPPL. The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is located three miles north of the main campus on U.S. 1. The laboratory is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and staffed by University researchers who are exploring fusion energy.

PRB. WPRB, the University’s student-run radio station at 103.3 FM.
PRECEPTS. Also known as “Preceptorials.” Most humanities and social science courses at Princeton include two lectures and one preceptorial each week. The precept, from the Latin praecipere, “to teach,” is a small discussion group.

PRIORITIES COMMITTEE. Also known as “PriCom.” Student, faculty, and staff committee that advises the president each year on the operating budget for the succeeding fiscal year.

PRINCETON. The Daily Princetonian, the student-run campus newspaper.

PROSPECT HOUSE. Previously the President’s home, now a private dining facility serving the Princeton University community. Prospect House is also available for catered events for University departments and personal functions.

PUB. Princeton University Bulletin, a newspaper sent to faculty and staff throughout the academic year.

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES. The University’s six residential colleges are the center of residential life and offer an array of academic and social programs that enhance the undergraduate experience. The college system features three four-year residential colleges—Butler, Mathey, and Whitman—and three two-year residential colleges—Forbes, Rockefeller, and Wilson. Two-year colleges enable juniors and seniors to remain linked to a residential college, regardless of whether they live on campus.

REUNIONS. Held on the weekend preceding Commencement, this unique event brings approximately 20,000 alumni and family members to the campus each spring.

RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM. Located in Alexander Hall and serves as the University’s principal concert and lecture facility. It was erected originally in 1892 as a convocation hall for Commencement exercises and other large gatherings.

ROBERTSON HALL. Home of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

ROCKY. Rockefeller College. See Residential Colleges.

SENIOR THESIS. Each undergraduate degree candidate completes a senior thesis, a rite of passage for Princeton students. The thesis gives seniors the opportunity to pursue original research and scholarship on topics of their own choice under the guidance of faculty advisers.

STANHOPE HALL. Home of the Center for African American Studies.

STREET, THE. Located on Prospect Avenue and used to describe the undergraduate eating clubs as a group.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN. Adopted in February 2008, the Sustainability Plan grew out of the efforts of the Princeton Sustainability Committee and focuses on campus stewardship and preparing Princeton’s students to become engaged environmental citizens. The three priority areas are greenhouse gas emissions reduction; resource conservation; and research, education, and civic engagement.

T.A. Short for “teaching assistant,” a graduate student who assists faculty members. Sometimes called A.I. or “assistant in instruction.”

TIAA-CREF. Teachers Insurance Annuity Association and College Retirement Equities Fund, retirement investment funds available to faculty and staff members.

TIGERTRANSIT. The University’s TigerTransit transportation system operates on a fixed route schedule, providing safe, convenient, and reliable transportation throughout the Princeton campus and surrounding community.

UNIVERSITY SCHEDULING. The Office of University Scheduling offers scheduling and event planning assistance to members of the University community.
UNIVERSITY SERVICES. Princeton University Services is a grouping of service units designed to provide and manage facilities, services, and programs that support the University’s educational mission and enhance the quality of life on campus. Service units include the Frist Campus Center, Richardson Auditorium, Campus Dining, the Princeton University Store, Labyrinth Books, University Scheduling, 701 Carnegie Center, University Ticketing, TigerCard Office, Transportation and Parking Services, Trademark Licensing, Print and Mail Services, the Princeton Garden Theatre, and campus ATMs.

UNIVERSITY TICKETING. University ticketing is the gateway for ticketed events throughout the campus including Athletics, Frist Campus Center, Princeton University Chapel, Princeton University Concerts, Program in Theater and Dance, Richardson Auditorium, and Theatre Intime.

USG. Undergraduate Student Government. Governing body that seeks to represent and serve the needs of the undergraduate student body at Princeton University.

U-STORE. The Princeton University Store. The main branch is located at 36 University Place; the satellite store is located at 114 Nassau Street. The U-Store offers stationery and school supplies, dorm-approved appliances and dorm furnishings, bedding and linens, batteries, digital photo needs, computer software and technical gear, food and groceries, and toiletries, as well as Princeton apparel and gifts.

VANGUARD. Retirement investment funds available to faculty and staff members.

WEST COLLEGE. Building occupied by deans and other officers involved in the academic administration of the undergraduate college, including admissions, the dean of the college, and the registrar.

WHIG. Whig Hall, twin of and located next to Clio Hall, is home of the American Whig-Cliosophic Society, and is the oldest college political, literary, and debating society in the United States.