**ACADEMIC ADVISOR** – University staff member that works with students to select the appropriate courses, review course and graduation requirements, discuss academic goals, and assist with any academic problems students may encounter.

**ACADEMIC PROBATION** - All colleges require students to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) to remain in school. Any student not maintaining satisfactory progress toward his/her educational objectives will be placed on probation for a semester.

**ACT and SAT** - Acronyms for the American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Both tests are designed to measure a student’s level of knowledge in basic areas such as math, science, English and social studies. Colleges may require the results of either the ACT or SAT as part of the admissions process.

**CATALOG**: Book containing requirements for all degree programs.

**CREDIT HOUR**: College credit hours are calculated based on the time students spend in class and studying. One credit hour usually represents three total hours of work per week over a 15-week semester.

**ELECTIVE**: Courses that students are allowed to choose based on their own interests.

**Exploratory/No Pref**: “MSU has over 200 programs of undergraduate, graduate, and pre-professional study to choose from; making the right choice can sometimes be difficult. The Exploratory Preference major allows first and second year students the chance to explore their purpose, career interests, and academic goals in order to select the right major for them. Working with the Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative (NSSC), students in this Major are equipped with the tools to chart their own course into the program of their choice.”

**FAFSA**: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Filed annually to determine eligibility for financial aid.

**FEES** - Fees are additional charges not included in the tuition. Fees may be charged to cover the cost of materials, campus resources, health insurance, etc.

**FERPA**: Family Educational Rights Privacy Act. Federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records.

**FINANCIAL AID**: Any type of aid offered to students to be used for college-related expenses.

**FULL-TIME**: Students who are enrolled for at least 12 credit hours.

**GRANTS**: Funds awarded to qualified students that do not have to be repaid.

**HIPPA**: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Federal legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for medical information.

**INTERNSHIP**: Temporary position that provides additional learning experiences outside the classroom.

**MAJOR/MINOR**: A major is a student’s chosen field of study. It usually requires the successful completion of a specified number of credit hours. A minor is designated as a specific number of credit hours in a secondary field of study.
**MATRICULATE**: To be enrolled at a college or university.

**OFFICE HOURS**: Time each week that is required of college instructors to allow students to visit and ask questions about the material.

**REGISTRAR**: Office that maintains student educational records.

**STUDENT ACCOUNTS**: The primary function of the Student Accounts office is to issue bills, receive payments and provide information to help understand the aspects of a MSU account.

**SYLLABUS**: An outline of the important information about a course. Written by the professor or instructor, it usually includes important dates, assignments, expectations and policies specific to that course.

**TRANSCRIPT**: Official academic student record showing courses taken and grades received.

**WORK STUDY**: The Federal Work Study Program (FWS) is a government-subsidized student employment program designed to assist students in financing their post-secondary education. To be eligible for FWS funds, you must demonstrate financial need every year by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).