

Course Definitions and Format

Format of Course Listings

All university course offerings, listed alphabetically by areas of study, are described in the section titled Course Catalog Descriptions (<https://catalog.ndsu.edu/past-bulletin-archive/2025-2026/course-catalog/descriptions/>). Course information and course availability is subject to change. The heading, which precedes the brief description of each course, includes the current course number; course title; and the number of fixed or variable semester credit hours.

Course Numbers

Course numbers indicate the student classification for which the course is primarily intended. Some course numbers end with a letter suffix: L - laboratory course; R - recitation (undergraduate) or research continuation (graduate); S - graduate project. The number system is as follows:

0-99 series courses: Developmental or remedial courses are designed to develop skills for students to prepare them for college-level coursework. These courses are not degree applicable and the grade is not factored into the grade-point average (GPA) unless otherwise stated in academic policy. Course credits for developmental or remedial courses will count for financial aid credit and to determine full- and part-time status.

100 series courses: Introductory classes designed to give first-year students a survey of a specific topic area. Considered lower division.

200 series courses: Intermediate courses designed for students who have taken a foundational course in a specific topic area. Courses expand on ideas central to the discipline. Considered lower division.

300 series courses: Courses contain concepts, methods, and techniques central to a specific discipline. Courses are mostly major specific and prepare students to meet the learning outcomes for the major. Considered upper division.

400 series courses: Courses are designed for students to synthesize, evaluate complex concepts, and master skills within the discipline. Courses are mostly major specific and focus on current terms, techniques and approaches that shape the discipline. Considered upper division.

500 series courses: Courses are designated for professional programs that lead to entry into practice professions or post-baccalaureate programs. Courses are advanced to prepare students for work in a specific field or discipline.

601-699 series courses: Graduate level courses taught concurrently in the same classroom with advanced undergraduates at the 400 level. Courses exist at the 600 level only if there is a 400 level counterpart.

700 series courses: Graduate level courses open to students in master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs.

800 series courses: Graduate level courses predominately intended for doctoral level graduate students.

2000 series courses: Continuing education for post-baccalaureate learning. Continuing education courses are not applicable toward graduate degrees.