

# STUDENT DICTIONARY



ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS CENTER

The University of Arkansas – Fort Smith empowers the social mobility of its students and the economic growth of the River Valley through exceptional educational opportunities and robust community partnerships.

Check out the [UAFS website](#) to learn more about our Lion Pride!

## GENERAL COLLEGE TERMS

**Academic Catalog:** The UAFS official annual publication for policies, procedures, programs of study, and degree plans.

**Academic Calendar:** An official list of important dates such as the beginning of a semester, midterm and final exams, add/drop deadlines, registration, application deadlines, graduation, holidays, and breaks.

**Academic Coach:** ASC staff who partners with students in developing academic skills such as time and project management, study habits, test taking, and goal setting. Each student, regardless of GPA or classification, has access to an academic coach.

**Alumni:** Graduates of a school, college, university, or organization.

### Calculating Grade Point Average (GPA):

#### Grade Points:

**A = 4.0   B = 3.0   C = 2.0   D = 1.0   F = 0.0**

**Grade Points** x **Credit Hours** = **Total Quality Points**

#### Example:

MATH 1403 - A	MATH: 4 x 3 = 12
ENGL 1203 - B	ENGL: 3 x 3 = 9
HIST 2753 - C	HIST: 2 x 3 = 6
PSYC 1163 - B	PSYC: 3 x 3 = 9
PSYC 1001 - A	PSYC: 4 x 1 = 4

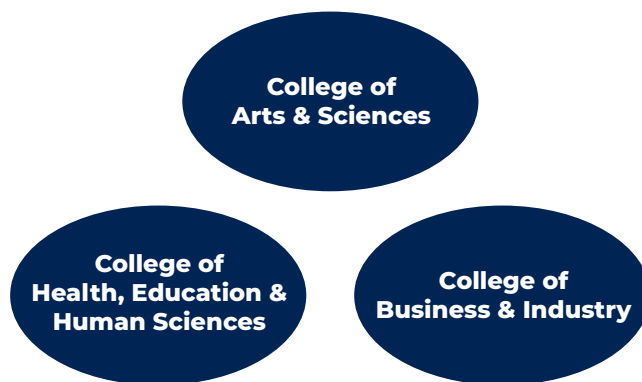
**Credit Hours = 13 Total Hours   Quality Points = 40**

**GPA =  $\frac{\text{Total Quality Points}}{\text{Total Hours}}$    40 / 13 = 3.07**

**Catalog Year:** Catalog year determines which academic catalog a student's degree plan is tied to as well as which academic and graduation policies they are responsible for following.

**Citing Sources:** Giving credit to another's ideas, words, or images. This may be in a bibliography at the end of a paper and also within the text. The Writing Center and librarians are helpful sources for formatting students' scholarly work and citations correctly.

**College:** A unit of the university that oversees a collection of departments.



**College Advisor:** Once students progress out of the ROAR First-Year Advising Center, they are assigned an advisor in the college their major falls under. College advisors assist with choosing a major and minor, adding or dropping classes, creating an academic plan, exploring course options, and registering for courses.

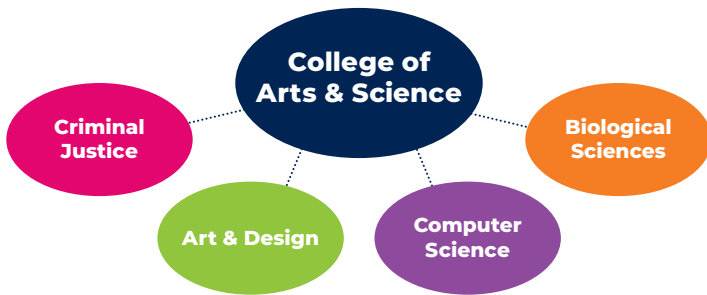
**Commencement:** Commonly known as graduation.

**Cumulative GPA:** Grade point average for all coursework completed at UAFS.

# GENERAL COLLEGE TERMS CONTINUED

**Database:** A collection of scholarly and news articles that a library provides to students and faculty because the library pays for the subscription. Databases are essential for research.

**Department:** A smaller unit within a college that aligns with a student's major and provides policies, courses, and training for their content area.



**Finals Week:** The last week of the semester when students are studying for and completing final projects or exams in each class.

**Faculty Advisor:** A faculty member in a student's department who helps to advise students for the next term.

**Librarian:** A faculty member within the library who assists students with research in their area of study and utilizing library resources. UAFS librarians are helpful and like to work directly with students to answer any questions.

**Reading / Dead Day:** The day before final exams begin when no classes are in session and students can dedicate their time to preparing for their exams.

**Scholarly Article:** Research or journal articles that have been published to further knowledge in a particular field. May often be peer-reviewed (read by other experts in the field before it's approved for publication). The author's own work adds to the scholarly conversation on the subject about which they write. A librarian can help students find scholarly articles for their papers or research.

**Term:** A semester that a student is enrolled in classes (fall, spring, or summer).

**Term GPA:** GPA for all coursework in any specified term (fall, spring, or summer).

**Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972:** Federal legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools that receive any federal money.

**TRIO Student Support Services Programs:** TRIO programs at UAFS are federal grant-funded programs that support students who identify as first-generation college students, low-income, or having a disability.

# TYPES OF STUDENTS

**First-Generation Student:** A student who is the first in their family to attend college. Neither parent/guardian has a four-year degree.

**Full-Time Student:** A student enrolled in at least 12 credit hours during the spring and/or fall semester.



**Non-Traditional Student:** A student who identifies as one of the following: 25 years or older, married, parent, veteran, returning to college after an interruption in higher education, working 30 or more hours per week while attending college, and/or attending college for the first time after more than one semester post-high school graduation.

**Part-Time Student:** A student enrolled in less than 12 credit hours during the spring and/or fall semester.



# REGISTRATION

**Academic Probation:** Occurs when a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.00 at the close of the fall, spring, or summer term. This can include WATC or concurrent work.

**Academic Suspension:** Occurs if a student does not earn a 2.0 semester GPA while on academic probation. Both semester and cumulative GPA have to be below a 2.0 to move to suspension.

**Adding Classes:** A change to a student's schedule to add additional courses during the current term. Students are able to add courses only during the first week of the semester.

**Associate Degree:** Associate-level programs require a student to complete at least 60 total credit hours and may take two years or more to complete.

**Bachelor's Degree:** Bachelor's-level programs require a student to complete at least 120 credit hours and may take four years or more to complete.

**Certificate of Proficiency:** Certificate programs provide basic training and foundational knowledge, making students more marketable in their field.

**Credits or Credit Hours:** A unit of measure for the amount of instruction per course.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA):** A federal law that ensures privacy, limited access to, and the release of student records.

**Good Academic Standing:** A student is considered in good academic standing if their cumulative GPA is above 2.00.

**Hold:** Holds prevent access to registration for classes and require a certain action to be lifted.

**Transcript:** A complete record of declared majors and minors, enrollment, courses taken, credits earned and attempted, and GPA at an institution.

**Withdraw or "Drop" Classes:** Formal process to get out of a class. Students can receive a "W" rather than the typical A,B,C,D, or F as the grade on permanent records, if dropped by the deadline.



# ADVISING

**Adult Degree Completion Program:** A program designed to help non-traditional students achieve a degree by earning credit based upon previous work experience, military education and/or training, or previous education.

**Corequisite:** Two courses or a set of requirements that are meant to be taken together in a single semester. Example: GEOL 2311 – Minerals and Rocks Laboratory and GEOL 2313 – Mineral and Rocks

**Challenge Exam:** An exam that is used to earn college credit without taking the class. Example: ITA 1003

**Course Level:** Example: Composition I is ENGL 1203. The 1 shows that Composition I is a freshman-level course. Example: Calculus I is MATH 2804. The 2 shows that Calculus I is a sophomore-level course.

**Course Record Number (CRN):** Specific numbers that identify the subject, instructor, time, location, and type of course when registering for classes. These will change each term.

**Degree Audit:** An action taken by an advisor to ensure which degree requirements have been met and which are still outstanding. This can include WATC or concurrent work.

**Degree Plan:** A course guide based upon the catalog year in which the student has declared the major.

**Electives:** A course that does not fulfill a major or general education requirement.

**General Education Requirements:** A part of degree requirements that include foundational courses across a variety of topics such as English composition, history, lab sciences, mathematics, etc. These courses help students develop skills, such as critical thinking and writing, that can help them succeed in upper level courses.

**Major:** An area of study in which a student specializes while working toward a college degree. Example: Majoring in political science.

**Minor:** A secondary area of study which a student works towards alongside their major. Minors do not have to be related to one's major. Example: Minor in creative writing.

**Prerequisite:** A course that is meant to be taken prior to another course. Example: Composition I should be taken prior to taking Composition II.

**Priority Registration:** Registration is based on the number of credit hours earned. Seniors register first, then juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.



# FINANCIAL AID

**Direct Subsidized Loans:** A federal student loan that does not accrue interest while the borrower is in school, during the grace period, or in deferment and has a fixed interest rate. This loan is need-based and eligibility is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Direct Unsubsidized Loans:** A federal student loan that has a fixed interest rate and starts accruing interest once the loan has disbursed to the borrower. Interest is also accrued while the student is in deferment or forbearance and during any grace periods. This loan is not need-based.

**Federal Pell Grant:** Grants that are awarded to undergraduate students with high financial need and do not need to be repaid. Students need to apply for FAFSA annually.

**Federal Work-Study Program:** Students who have completed their FAFSA and have financial need may qualify for an on-campus job through federal work-study. These positions offer up to 11 hours per week and are paid the state minimum wage.

**Free Application for federal student aid (FAFSA):** Students must complete the FAFSA annually to receive federal student aid. The FAFSA collects tax information, dependency status, and other financial data to determine eligibility for federal student aid.

**Payment Plan:** A formal payment arrangement for the term's outstanding balance. Students can set up their payment plan through the Online Business Center on My.UAFS.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP):** A set of standards that students must meet to maintain their eligibility for federal student aid programs such as grants, loans, and work-study. These standards include maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA, completing 67 percent of courses attempted, and graduating within a specified time frame. If students fail to meet these SAP requirements, they may lose their eligibility for federal financial aid.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal:** If a student's Title IV aid is suspended due to not meeting SAP requirements, they may request an appeal. The appeal includes a letter written by the student that details their circumstances and outlines their plans to successfully complete future semesters. Appeals should also include supporting documentation of the student's circumstances. No application will be reviewed without proper documentation.

**Scholarships:** A form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships vary and are awarded by the state, institution, foundation and/or private sources. The criteria for renewable scholarships are evaluated at the end of every fall and spring term.

**Tuition:** The amount of money that students are required to pay for their educational courses and instruction. Tuition covers the cost of attending classes, receiving academic instruction, and accessing campus resources such as libraries and some student services. Tuition can vary widely depending on the college or university, the specific program of study, and whether a student is an in-state resident or an out-of-state student.

**University Work-Study Program:** An on-campus job that is not linked to financial aid status. Students can work up to 11 hours and earn state minimum wage.

# ON-CAMPUS LOCATIONS

**Academic Success Center (ASC):** Operates with the primary goal of serving students with four free services: academic coaching, peer tutoring, workshops, and test proctoring.

**Advancement Center:** Houses the Alumni Office, Marketing and Communications, and the UAFS Foundation.

**Baldor Technology Center:** Houses the College of Business and Industry Advising Center, WATC, and most industry faculty.

**Boreham Library:** Offers a variety of books, video games, and DVDs available to check out, study rooms, a 24-hour lab, computers, and print stations for all UAFS students to utilize. (See below.)



**Breedlove Auditorium:** Location for all UAFS theatre, band, and choir performances on campus.

**Breedlove:** Houses Breedlove Auditorium and music and theatre faculty.

**Crowder Field:** Home to the Lion baseball team.

**Dave Stevens Lion Pride Food Pantry:** On-campus pantry providing food, school supplies, and household and personal care items to UAFS students, faculty, staff, and contract partners.

**Echols:** Houses Upward Bound and Little Lions Development Center.

**Financial Aid Office:** Helps educate students on how to pay for college through scholarships, loans, grants, veteran benefits, work-study, and 60-Plus waivers.

**Flanders & Business and Industrial Institute:** Houses business faculty, SSS STEM, and Student Disability Services.

**Fullerton Administration:** Houses the UAFS administration: chancellor, provost, Human Resources, Finance, Business Center, etc.

**Gardner:** Houses the Information Technology Services Help Desk and history and philosophy faculty.

**Gymnasium:** Houses the Writing Center and Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) offices. Also referred to as the Old Gym.

**Lion's Den Dining Hall:** The UAFS on-campus cafeteria, offering a variety of food including pizza, salad bar, burger bar, homestyle options, and more.

**Lion's Den Residence Halls:** Suite-style housing primarily for first-year students. Referred to as the North Lion's Den and South Lion's Den. (See below.)



**Little Lions Child Development Center:** Provides early learning experiences and care for children from 6 weeks old through pre-K3.

**Math-Science:** Houses the mathematics and sciences faculty.



# ON-CAMPUS LOCATIONS CONTINUED

## **Office of Campus and Community Engagement**

**(CACE):** Offers engaging events, supports student organizations, and aids students in finding community service opportunities both on campus and around the Fort Smith community. CACE offers a student lounge in the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center where students have access to a supplied Keurig, snacks donated from the Lion Pride Food Pantry, and more. Long-timers at UAFS may still call CACE the SAO or Student Activities Office.

**Food Court:** Located inside the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center and includes Slim Chickens, Starbucks, Cabo Mexican Grill, two | 12 (pizza and pasta), and The Market (sandwiches).

**Pendergraft Health Sciences Center:** Houses the Counseling Center, Powell Student Health Clinic, Dental Hygiene Clinic, College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences Advising Center, and health sciences faculty. (See below.)



## **Recreation and Wellness Center (RAWC):**

On-campus fitness facility offering group fitness classes, fitness equipment, climbing and bouldering walls, an indoor track, and more. (See below.)



**Registrar's Office:** Holds information regarding a student's academic record such as transcripts, progress towards graduation, transferring credits, and getting a Lions ID.

**ROAR First-Year Advising Center:** Students' advisors for their first year or 24 hours of coursework earned after high school.

**Sebastian Commons (SebCo):** Eight three-story on-campus apartment buildings offering one-, two-, and four-bedroom options for upperclassmen, non-traditional, and married students. Laundry facilities, optional covered parking, and 24-hour study rooms are available to residents.



**Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center:** Houses offices such as the UAFS bookstore, CACE, Admissions, ROAR First-Year Advising Center, Financial Aid, Registrar's Office, and food court. (See above.)

**Stubblefield Center:** Home to the Lions basketball, volleyball, and cheer teams. (See below.)



# ON-CAMPUS LOCATIONS CONTINUED

**Student Disability Services:** Works with students with physical, emotional, and/or learning disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations and services.

**Student Support Desk:** Helps students solve technical issues including connecting to Blackboard. Students can also check out laptops and hotspots.

**University Police Department (UPD):** On-campus police department that monitors properties owned, controlled, or leased by UAFS. UPD officers ensure UAFS is a safe campus from parking lots to residence halls. They will respond to emergencies or inconveniences such as a dead battery, flat tire, or locked in keys.

**Vines:** Houses the media communication, criminal justice, world languages, social work, political science, and psychology faculty as well as the Academic Success Center and College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center.

**Windgate Art and Design:** Home to graphic design and studio art faculty and the art gallery for featured exhibits. (See below.)



**Writing Center:** Assists UAFS students with all types of writing at all levels and serves as a relaxing study space. Tutoring appointments are offered in-person and online.

## RESIDENCE LIFE

**Lions Cash:** An account that students can add money to for purchases on campus (ex. additional printing money) and at certain locations off campus with their Lions ID. Think of Lions Cash as a UAFS debit account.

**Living Learning Communities (LLCs):** A designated living area for students participating in a specific academic program or who may share academic interests: Current LLCs include Business and Entrepreneurship, Lions Excelling Across Disciplines (LEAD), and Myles Friedman Honors Program.

**Meal Plan:** A prepaid plan used towards dining on campus in the Lion's Den cafeteria or food court.

**Resident Assistants:** UAFS students who are trained to oversee students living in their residence hall floor or assigned area. They should be the first person contacted within the residence hall if issues arise.

**Resident Directors:** UAFS staff members who oversee all students in their building and provide a safe living environment. Resident assistants report to the resident director of their building.

**Residence Hall:** On-campus housing for UAFS students. Commonly known as "dorms."

# ONLINE PLATFORMS

**Blackboard:** An online platform for courses that may contain syllabi, course work, updated grades, and announcements from your faculty. Students will most likely utilize Blackboard for completing and submitting assignments.

**Lions Alert:** UAFS campus emergency notification system that notifies students, faculty, and staff via text, phone call, and/or e-mail.

**Lions CareerLink:** An online job board that allows UAFS students and alumni to upload their resumes and cover letters and search for job openings.

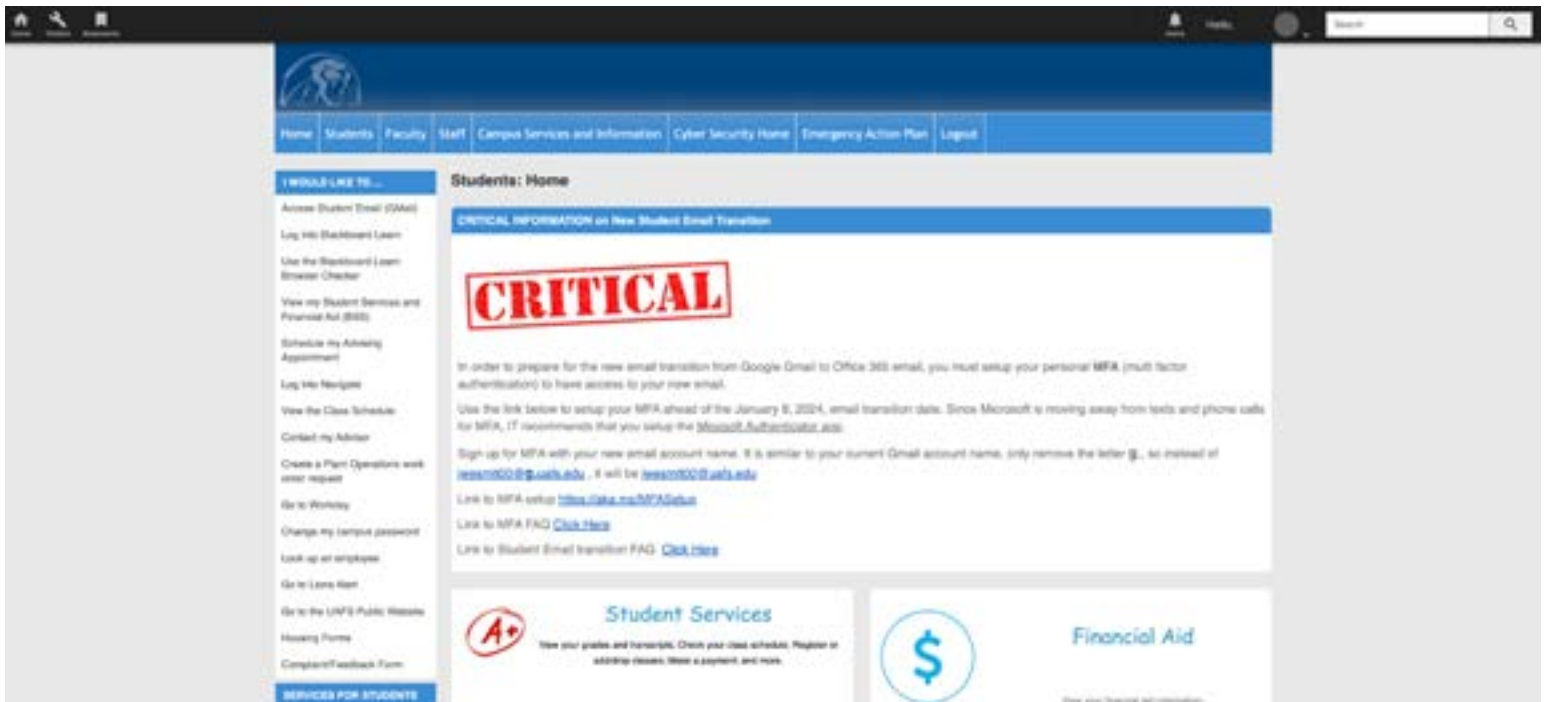
**My.UAFS:** A student dashboard that provides access to university systems and communications, campus resources, online services, financial aid status, appeal forms, and academic information. (See below.)

**Navigate:** An online tool that allows for students to easily communicate with faculty and their success team as well as provides a convenient way to schedule appointments with advisors, faculty, and student support departments. Students can also log in and see their class schedule, mid-term and final grades, and notes regarding advising and long-term plans.

**NUMALink:** The student engagement platform from Presence brought to you by the CACE Office, providing information on all student programming including registered student organizations (RSOs), departments, academic support offices, and upcoming events on campus. Students can also keep track of service hours, gain experiences and certificates, and more. (See below.)



**Student Notifications:** Submitted by faculty in Navigate to raise concerns regarding a student's progress in a course, directly connect students to support resources like financial aid, academic coaching and tutoring; and celebrate student successes. Many of these notifications result in an email to the student and their advisor.



# INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS

**Access Code:** A unique, one-time password that gives access to online course materials. This may include an e-book, assignments, quizzes or tests, videos, etc. Some instructors may ask that students purchase an access code rather than a hard copy of a textbook. Most access codes are available at the UAFS bookstore.

**Asynchronous Class:** Online courses in which students access and complete assignments on their own time by a certain deadline identified by the instructor. These courses do not require students to attend at a specified time.

**Cengage:** A publishing company for course material such as access codes. Students may also hear Cengage Unlimited linked to this company.

**Comprehensive Exam:** An exam during finals week that covers all material presented throughout the current semester.

**E-Book:** A digital copy of a book.

**International Standard Book Number (ISBN):** A unique identifier for books.

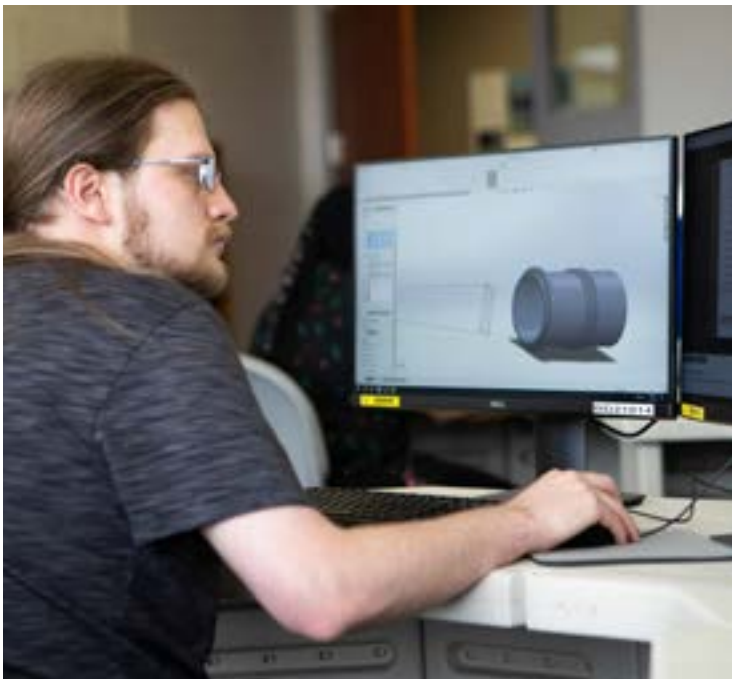
**McGraw-Hill:** A publishing company for course material such as access codes.

**Office Hours:** Time set by an instructor for students to visit their office to discuss course material, ask questions, etc.

**Pearson:** A publishing company for course material such as access codes.

**Syllabus:** An outline of a course including course description, instructor contact information, course outline, due dates, expectations, and requirements. A course syllabus is typically introduced at the beginning of a semester.

**Synchronous Class:** Online class that students virtually attend with their instructor and classmates through Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate at a specific time each week. Students can attend from anywhere.



# OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOMS

**Cover Letter:** A letter, email, or summary statement sent along with a resume explaining to an employer why a candidate is a great fit for the open position.

**eSports:** A team for UAFS students to compete in video game tournaments and/or play casually. (See below.)



**Focus2:** Uses self-assessment to help students find majors and/or careers that best fit their personality, values, skills, etc.

**Internship:** Provides hands-on work experience in a student's field of study. Can be paid and unpaid positions, depending on the company. College credit can be included, depending on the program.

**Intramural Sports:** Program that allows students to compete in sports and tournaments as an extracurricular activity.

**Lions Chronicle:** The UAFS online newspaper written and published by UAFS students.

**Resume:** A one- to two-page summary of one's education, skills, and work experience.

**Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC):** Military program that provides the opportunity for a student to earn a degree while working toward becoming an officer in the armed forces. UAFS has ROTC programs for the Army and Air Force.



**Registered Student Organization (RSO):** Clubs and groups created for and run by students. There are more than 100 RSOs at UAFS. (See below.)



**Student Government Association (SGA):** A leading group of UAFS students who create events and policies to support the needs and wants of the entire student body. They work together to create the best experience at UAFS.