

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION STRUCTURE

WHAT IS IT?

University vs. College

Colleges usually focus on teaching. Universities focus on teaching and research.

University

A University is a collection of colleges. Colleges may become universities as they expand.

College

Subdivision of a university. Colleges may operate fairly autonomously of one another.

Department

Subdivision of a college. Each discipline has its own department.

WHO RUNS IT?

Board of Regents (BoR)

Body appointed by governor for a specific term. Makes ultimate decisions about institutions - opening, funding, adding majors/certificates.

President/Chancellor

"CEO" of University. Executes BoR's decisions. Makes decisions that do not require BoR input.

Dean

May be time-bound appointment. Deans report to the Provost.

Department Chair/Exec Officer

Tenured faculty member who is appointed for a particular term.

Vice/Associate/Assistant

These terms denote supporting positions who report to the root position: e.g. "Associate Vice-Presidents" report to a "Vice President" who reports to the President.

Provost

"Chief Academic Officer"; ranked "Executive Vice President". Oversees all teaching and research.

Vice Presidents may oversee divisions of the university rather than a college, like the Vice President for Research and the Vice President for Student Life.

The U of I has 13 colleges. Can you name them all?

ICRU is a part of the Office of the Vice President for Research. It works closely with the University College, but does not officially sit in a "college".

Tenure

Tenure allows faculty to keep their jobs until they retire. Being on a "tenure track" is a long process. Is it worth it? Tenured faculty do not have to worry about arbitrary dismissal, meaning they are free to share and pursue ideas that may be unpopular.

With a growing need for instructors, many universities are now offering tenure tracks to lecturers.

WHO IS IN A DEPARTMENT?

Staff

Non-faculty university employees (e.g. librarians, administrative workers, custodial staff).

Merit: Positions usually unrelated to the direct academics of a university. Often require a high school education level.

Professional: Positions may or may not relate directly to academics of a university. Often require a college degree.

Students

Degree or non-degree seeking university attendees. **Undergraduate students** usually hold no higher education degree. **Graduate students** hold Bachelor's degrees.

Bachelor's Degree: 3-5 year educational program for a discipline.

Masters degree: 1-3 year program that may be completed to increase job prospects or as preparation for a higher degree.

Doctoral Degree: "Terminal" (Highest) degree in a discipline. 4+ year degree that culminates in an original scholarly work.

Post-Doc: PhD-holder in a temporary research position to acquire a specific, specialized set of skills.

Faculty (Professors)

Faculty, "Professors", perform instructional and research activity at a university.

Professor: (No prefix) Tenured faculty who have made significant contributions to their field.

Associate: Tenured faculty.

Assistant: Tenure-track faculty.

Lecturer/Instructor: Provide instruction possibly hold administrative responsibilities.

Clinical: Provide practical instruction and application of knowledge

Emeritus: Retired but maintaining high esteem.

Visiting: Permanent appointment at a different institution.

Resources

- <http://www.heitmanagement.com/blog/2013/03/what-is-a-provost-an-introduction-to-administrative-and-academic-ranks/>
- [http://euro.ecom.cmu.edu/titles/titlebook.htm#Glossary of Titles](http://euro.ecom.cmu.edu/titles/titlebook.htm#Glossary%20of%20Titles)
- <http://www.bu.edu/handbook/appointments-and-promotions/classification-of-ranks-and-titles/>