Glossary of terms

# Contact hour

A period of 45-60 minutes of teaching/learning activity in which a staff member is engaged face to face with a learner or group of learners.

# Continuous assessment

A system of assessment in which work is assessed throughout the programme or course unit and does not rest on a final examination.  Marks achieved often contribute to a final overall mark the final assessment total for the student, either for the unit, the year of study or for the programme.

# Course

Often used as a synonym for programme or course unit.  Tuning has adopted the term programme to designate a complete programme of study leading to a degree, and course unit for smaller units of structured teaching and learning in such a programme.

# Course unit

A self-contained, formally structured learning experience. It should have a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes, expressed in terms of competences to be obtained, and appropriate assessment criteria. Course units can have different numbers of credits.

# Elective

A course unit that may be taken as part of a study programme but is not compulsory for all students.

# Module

The term module has different meanings in different countries. In some it means a course unit; in others a module is a group of course units. In others again course units are made up of a number of modules. In Tuning a module is defined as a course unit or a combination of course units in a system in which each course unit carries the same number of credits or a multiple thereof.

# Study programme

An approved set of modules or course units recognized for the award of a specific degree, which should be defined through the set of learning outcomes, expressed in terms of competences, to be achieved in order to obtain the specified credits.

**References**

<http://www.unideusto.org/tuningeu/documents/glossary-of-terms.html>

**From:**

http://keydifferences.com/difference-between-syllabus-and-curriculum.html#ComparisonChart

# Definition of Syllabus

The syllabus is defined as the documents that consist of topics or portion covered in a particular subject. It is determined by the examination board and created by the professors. The professors are responsible for the quality of the course. It is made available to the students by the teachers, either in hard copy or electronic form to bring their attention towards the subject and take their study seriously.

A syllabus is considered as a guide to the in charge as well as to the students. It helps the students to know about the subject in detail, why it is a part of their course of study, what are the expectations from students, consequences of failure, etc. It contains general rules, policies, instructions, topics covered, assignments, projects, test dates, and so on.

# Definition of Curriculum

The curriculum is defined as the guideline of the chapters and academic content covered by an educational system while undergoing a particular course or program.

In a theoretical sense, curriculum refers to what is offered by the school or college. However, practically it has a wider scope which covers the knowledge, attitude, behaviour, manner, performance and skills that are imparted or inculcated in a student. It contains the teaching methods, lessons, assignments, physical and mental exercises, activities, projects, study material, tutorials, presentations, assessments, test series, learning objectives, and so on.

The curriculum is well planned, guided and designed by the government or the educational institution. It is aimed at both physical and mental development of a student. It is the overall learning experience that a student goes through during the particular course of study.

# Key Differences Between Syllabus and Curriculum

The basic differences between syllabus and curriculum are explained in the point given below:

1. The syllabus is described as the summary of the topics covered or units to be taught in the particular subject. Curriculum refers to the overall content, taught in an educational system or a course.
2. Syllabus varies from teacher to teacher while the curriculum is same for all teachers.
3. The term syllabus is a Greek origin, whereas the term curriculum is a Latin origin.
4. The curriculum has a wider scope than the syllabus.
5. The syllabus is provided to the students by the teachers so that they can take an interest in the subject. On the other hand, normally the curriculum is not made available to the students unless specifically asked for.
6. Syllabus is descriptive in nature, but the curriculum is prescriptive.
7. Syllabus is set for a particular subject. Unlike curriculum, which covers a particular course of study or a program.
8. Syllabus is prepared by teachers. Conversely, a curriculum is decided by the government or the school or college administration.
9. The duration of a syllabus is for a year only, but curriculum lasts till the completion of the course.