

Terminology

- Ballasts
- Ballast Factor
- Candela
- Candlepower
- Distribution
- Correlated Color Temperature
- Color Rendering Index
- Efficacy
- Efficiency
- Glare
- Illuminance
- Lamp
- Life - Average Rated
- Light
- Lumen
- Luminaire
- Luminance
- Reflectance
- Spectral Power Distribution

Lighting Terminology

Overview

Nearly every field or profession has a language that is unique to its own practitioners. The field of lighting is no exception to this. Designers, specifiers, and manufacturers within the lighting industry use unique terms and concepts, which have evolved into professional usage over a period of time and have been officially defined by professional bodies such as the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA).

The terminology included in this section is used frequently throughout this entire lighting education program. These terms represent important concepts in the study of lighting. They have been singled out for more in-depth definition than is found in the glossary of the program. Each term in this section has its own page, which begins with the official IESNA definition. This is followed by a description of how the term is typically used in lighting practice along with a graphic or animation designed to further illustrate the term or concept.

You may find it helpful to review the terminology in its entirety before beginning this lighting education program. Each term will also be linked to its definition when it is used for the first time in each section of the program.

Begin 