

A **campus** is traditionally **the land on which a college or university and related institutional buildings are situated**. Usually a campus includes libraries, lecture halls, residence halls and park-like settings. The definition currently describes a collection of buildings that belong to a given institution, either academic or non-academic.

The word derives from a Latin word for "field" and first was used to describe the grounds of a college at the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) during the 18th century.^[2] Some other American colleges later adopted the word to describe individual fields at their own institutions, but "campus" did not yet describe the whole university property. A school might have one space called a campus, one called a field, and another called a yard.

The meaning expanded to include the whole institutional property during the 20th century, with the old meaning persisting into the 1950s in some places. **Sometimes the lands on which company office buildings sit, along with the buildings, are called campuses.** The Microsoft Campus in Redmond, Washington, as well as hospitals use the term to describe the territory of their facilities. The word "campus" has also been applied to European universities, although most such institutions are characterized by ownership of individual buildings in urban settings rather than park-like lawns in which buildings are placed.

References

Turner, Paul V. (1996). *Joseph Ramée: International Architect of the Revolutionary Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. p. 190.
Douglas Harper, Campus, *Online Etymology Dictionary*, accessed October 2, 2011

See also

- Campus novel
- Campus university
- Satellite campus