

GLOSSARY OF CAREER & COLLEGE TERMS:



Accreditation: Recognition of a college or university by any of the regional or national accrediting bodies, indicating that the institution as a whole has been judged to be meeting its objectives.

ACCUPLACER – College assessment tests are used to determine skill levels for placement in reading, English, and mathematics.

The ACT (No Writing) – made up of four multiple-choice tests in English, mathematics, reading and science.

The ACT (Plus Writing) – includes the four multiple-choice tests plus a 30-minute Writing Test.

Advanced Placement (Standing) - Advanced status accorded to students who score high on Advanced Placement Tests or who have taken “advanced” or “college level” courses in high school. If qualified, a student may gain credit for a semester or a full year of collegiate study, or certain introductory courses may be waived.

Candidate Notification Date or Common Reply Date - The date by which a college notifies a student of their decision, usually April 15.

Candidate Reply Date - The date by which a student must notify the college of his/her enrollment intentions. Failure to reply means acceptance will be withdrawn by the college. (The date is usually May 1.)

College Calendar – Common systems of instruction time –

- **Traditional semester:** 2 approx. equal semesters
- **Early semester:** 2 semesters, the first ending before Christmas
- **Quarter:** 3 equal terms of about 12 weeks each
- **Trimester:** calendar year divided into 3 semesters; the third semester replaces summer school
- **4-1-4:** 2 equal terms of about 16 weeks each, with a 4-week interim term

The Common Application - A college application accepted by 125+ colleges/universities available on line and book marked on the Career Center computers. Students are encouraged to use this form when possible.

Cooperative Education - A combination of classroom study and work experience directly related to the classroom study.

Credit hour: A unit of academic credit that often represents one hour of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, etc.).

Deferral - A term used by the college to handle early-decision candidates who were not accepted in December but will still be considered for regular admissions.

Deferred Admissions - A policy by which a college allows a student to defer enrollment for one year, if notification is given, a space is reserved with a tuition deposit, and the year is not used for academic study elsewhere.

Early Action - differs from early decision in that students are not required to accept admission or withdraw applications from other schools if accepted. Students may submit applications to more than one early action program.

Early Admission – Admitting students of superior ability into college courses & programs before they have completed the standard high school program.

Early Decision - a plan in which students submit a college application in November or December and learn of their acceptance in December or January. If admitted, the students

MUST WITHDRAW their other applications and accept the school's offer. You may only apply for early decision to one school therefore it is recommended that this plan be used only if you have no doubts about where you want to attend college.

Early Notification - a program in which applicants must file their papers by December 1 in order to receive an admission decision by February 1.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – The application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. The FAFSA is processed free of charge. This does not guarantee or provide financial aid. Forms and instructions on how to apply: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Financial Aid Package – A combination of aid (possibly including scholarship, grant, loan, and work) determined by a college financial aid office.

Grade Point Average (GPA) – An indicator of the student's overall scholastic performance. The GPA is computer by multiplying the number of grade points earned in each course (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0) times the number of course hours/credit hours, then dividing the sum by the total number of course hours/credit hours carried.

Grants – Awards based on financial need that do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies, and educational institutions.

Honors Program – Any program offering opportunity for superior students to enrich their educational experience through independent, advanced or accelerated study.

Independent Students - Those who are a) 24 years of age; b) an orphan or a ward of the court; c) a veteran; d) a graduate, professional or married student not claimed on a parental tax return; e) a student not claimed on a parental tax return for two years and demonstrated independence by reporting an annual income of \$4,000 or more.

Major – The subject of study in which the student chooses to specialize; a series of related courses, taken primarily in the junior and senior year

Open Admissions - a policy adopted by a number of institutions that allows virtually all applicants to enroll.

Rolling Admissions – admission's committee evaluates a student's application as soon as it is received.

SAT Reasoning Test – a measure of the critical thinking skills; composed of several different question types, including: a student-produced essay, multiple-choice questions and student-produced responses; each section is scored on a scale of 200-800; administered 7 times a year

SAT Subject Tests – designed to measure your knowledge and skills in 5 general subject areas: English, history and social studies, mathematics, science & the Languages (Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Japanese); required by some colleges for admissions

Student Aid Report (SAR) – The information you will receive after your FAFSA has been processed; includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Scholarships – Nonrepayable awards to students based on merit or merit plus need

Transcript – The official record of high school or college courses and grades, generally required for college admissions

Wait List – A term used by Institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or deny admission; the institution extends the possibility of admission in the future. Colleges offer admission to wait list candidates if insufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates accept offers of admission.