



Glossary of Terms for College Bound Students and Parents:

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.

Advanced placement (AP): Granting of credit and/or assignment to an advanced college course on the basis of evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of an introductory course.

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

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 Failure to reply means acceptance will be withdrawn by the college.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:** two approximately equal semesters
- **Quarter:** three equal terms of about 12 weeks
- **Trimester:** calendar year divided into three equal semesters, the third replaces summer session
- **4-1-4:** two equal terms of about 16 weeks ea., 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 hours of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, etc.).

Deferment: 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.

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.

Early Action: An application process which permits students to make application to an institution of preference and receive a decision during the senior year, well in advance of the normal response dates in the spring. *Differs from Early Decision in that the candidate is not committed to enroll at the accepting institution.* Students may submit applications to more than one early action program.

Early Admission: A program in which a college accepts high school students to enroll before they graduate from high school. Admissions standards are more stringent for early admissions.

Early Decision: An application process in which a commitment is made by the student to the institution that, if admitted, the student will enroll. Only a student who can make a deliberate and well-reasoned first choice decision should apply under an Early Decision plan because the institution will require a nonrefundable deposit well before financial aid packages are calculated.

Early Notification: A program in which applicants must submit applications 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 an online process, free of charge, and it is used by most state agencies and colleges. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Grade point average: An indicator of the student's overall scholastic performance. The GPA is computed by multiplying the number of grade points earned in each course (generally, A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E/F=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 programs: 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 years of college.

Midyear Admission: An option some colleges are now offering to certain candidates, allowing them to start classes in the second semester rather than in the fall.

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

Rolling Admissions: A program in which the admission committee evaluates a student's application as soon as it is received. The student is then notified of the school's decision.

Student Aid Report (SAR): The information the student will receive approximately 3 to 6 weeks after the FAFSA has been processed. It will report the information from your FAFSA application and, if there are no questions or concerns with your application, your SAR will report your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC code is reported to colleges at the student's request and is used as a means to determine financial aid eligibility.

Scholarships: Non-repayable awards to students based on merit or merit plus need.

Transcript: The official record of high school or college courses and grades generally required as part of the college application.

Wait List: A term used by institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or deny admission. Rather, 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 their offers of admission.

Work-Study programs: Jobs that allow students to earn money toward their education while they are enrolled in school. (Students can sometimes get jobs related to their program of study.)