

Walt Whitman High School and MCPS Commonly Used Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Terms

504 Plan	Accommodations Plan for Special Needs
ACT	The ACT is a national college admission examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading and Science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four subject area tests and a 30-minute writing test. For more information see: http://www.actstudent.org/index.html
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AP	Assistant Principal OR Advanced Placement. AP courses are rigorous college level courses that follow a curriculum mandated by the College Board . Exams and papers during the year are prepared and graded by Whitman teachers. AP exams given in May are prepared and graded by the College Board. Some colleges give credit or allow students to opt out of a course if the student passes the exam with scores of a certain level (e.g., 3 out of the 5 point scale).
ASVAB	Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
Baldrige	Refers to the mandated School Improvement Plan (Baldrige). see also SIP and http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/info/baldrige/parents/
BCR	Brief Constructed Response. Basically a paragraph.
Black and White	Whitman's newspaper. Print form issues available by subscription. On the web at http://www.blackandwhiteonline.net/ .
BOE	Board of Education
Booster Club	Group of Parents and teachers or coaches organized to support one or more athletic teams, arts or music groups
BTS Night	Back to School Night
CAC	Counseling Advisory Committee
CEEB	College Entrance Examination Board. The CEEB offers the following tests: SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject, AP (Advanced Placement), TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) Tests
CESC	Carver Educational Services Center ~ headquarters of MCPS
CI	Continuous Improvement or College Institute Program
CIC	Career Information Center. See: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whitmanhs/guidance/cic/cic.shtml
CIP	Capital Improvements Program
CLEP	The College-Level Examination Program® provides students of any age with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in undergraduate college courses. There are 2,900 colleges that grant credit and/or advanced standing for CLEP exams. For more information from the College Board web site, see: http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/clep/about.html . These exams are not directly applicable for Whitman students, but could be of benefit to others within the larger community (parents, siblings, etc.).

COMAR	Code of Maryland Regulations
Common Application	The Common Application is the recommended form for 300 colleges and universities for admission to their undergraduate programs. Some schools use this form exclusively. All schools who are members must give equal consideration to the Common Application and their own admission's form. The Common Application can be submitted online at www.commonapp.org or by downloading it and sending in the printed form. Printed copies are available in the CIC.
CTBS	Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills
DCC	Downcounty Consortium (Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, Wheaton High Schools)
DECA	A national marketing association club at Whitman, Mrs. Marafatsos, sponsor
DSS	Deputy Superintendent of Schools
ECR	Extended Constructed Response. A writing exercise with multiple paragraphs. See also BCR.
Edline	Reporting System used by teachers to report grades, homework assignments and other information to students and parents. See https://www.edline.net/Index.page
EFO	Educational Facilities Officer ~ police officer stationed at the high school
Eidolon	Whitman's literary and arts magazine. Published annually. Ms. Susan Buckingham, sponsor.
EMT	Educational Management Team
ES	Elementary School
ESL	English as a Second Language, see also ESOL
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages. Students are assigned a level according to their English proficiency. Level one is the beginning level. For more information and a complete set of ESOL-related acronyms, see: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/esol/admin/acronyms.shtm
ESY	Extended School Year
FAFSA	Free Application For Federal Student Aid: Use this application to apply for federal student grants, work-study aid, and loans. You may also use this application to apply for most state and some private aid. FAFSAs are available in the Career Center the second week of December. It is strongly recommended that you send your completed FAFSA by January 2. The FAFSA form is free. There is no good excuse for not applying. Moreover, many colleges require a FAFSA to be on file in order for a student to be considered for their school's merit-based scholarships or awards. It is therefore imperative that every student file a FAFSA so that all financial aid opportunities, need-based or merit-based, can be explored. For more information from the FAFSA site itself, see: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm .
FAPE	Free and Appropriate Public Education
FARMS	Free And Reduced-price Meals System
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Festival of the Arts or FOA	Whitman's annual arts festival. Includes displays of visual arts and performances by the choral and instrumental music ensembles and certain drama groups; held in mid-May.
FLES	Foreign Language in the Elementary School
G/R	Grading and Reporting
GPA	Grade Point Average. To calculate a GPA, a 4 is assigned to an A, a 3 to a B, a 2 to a C, and a 1 to a D. For more information, see http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/policy/pdf/ikcra.pdf See also WGPA below.
GT	Gifted & Talented
Honors	Course taught above grade level
HS	High School
HSA	High School Assessment. Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) are rigorous end-of-course tests in Algebra 1/Data Analysis, Biology, English 9, Geometry, and NSL Government. These assessments are a key component of the Maryland Assessment Program. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has designed the tests to measure student achievement and school performance. Currently, students are required to take them if enrolled in the appropriate course. Passing scores were established in summer 2003 by the State Board of Education. Starting with the class of 2009 on, passing these tests will be requirements for graduation. Some of the exams are also used to calculate whether high schools have met achievement targets set under the federal No Child Left Behind law. For more information, please go to http://www.mdk12.org/mspp/high_school/
IB and MYP	International Baccalaureate program and related Middle Year's Program. These programs are not offered in the Whitman Cluster, but more information can be found at: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/ibo/
ICB	Interagency Coordinating Board ~ where school space may be reserved
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IPT	IDEA Proficiency Test
ISS	In School Suspension
It's Time!	It's Time! Packet for Seniors. A packet of information required for all seniors to assist the School Counseling Department in preparing their portion of college applications. Download at: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/whitmanhs/guidance/itstime_updated092506.pdf
ITV	Instructional Television
LC	Loss of Credit
LD	Learning Disabled or Learning Disability
LD/GT	Learning Disabled/Gifted and Talented
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment
MAP-R	Measures of Academic Progress – Reading Test

MCCPTA	Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations
MCCPTA EPI	Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations Educational Programs Incorporated
MCEA	Montgomery County Education Association
MCFT	Montgomery County Federation of Teachers
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools. See http://www.mcps.k12.md.us for more information.
M-NCPPC	Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
M-PAC	Maryland's Parent Advisory Council
MS	Middle School
MSA	The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) replaced the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP). In response to requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal mandates, it provides national norm-referenced and Maryland criterion-referenced data. The norm-referenced items provide national percentile ranks to describe how well a student performed in reading and mathematics compared to his/her peers nationally. The criterion-referenced items provide proficiency scores (expressed as Basic, Proficient, or Advanced proficiency level) to describe how well a student has mastered the reading and mathematics content specified in the Maryland Content Standards. Find out more about Maryland School Assessment at http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/assessment/index.html
MSAP	Maryland Student Assistance Program; now called SAP – Student Assistance Program
MSDE	Maryland State Department of Education
NAACP	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
NACAC	The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), “founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 9,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education.” The NACAC form is accepted at all colleges for admission. For more information about NACAC see: http://www.nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/AboutNACAC/
Naviance	Naviance, formerly known as TCCi, provides information on colleges, historical acceptance trends, and scholarship listings. It helps students with college searches and college comparisons. It also has the college visit schedule and Whitman students' college acceptance and enrollment history for the three most recent years. This site is for all juniors and seniors and their families. A registration code to set up a personalized account can be obtained in the CIC from Mrs. Marmor.
NCLB	No Child Left Behind Revised Elementary and Secondary Education Act
NEC	Northeast Consortium (Blake, Paint Branch and Springbrook High Schools)
NMSC	National Merit Scholarship Corporation
NMSQT	National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test: See PSAT
NSL	National, State and Local Government Course
OARS	Online Achievement Reporting System (Pinnacle/Edline, used by

	staff/parents). See Edline.
OSA	Office of Shared Accountability
OSP	Office of School Performance
PE	Physical Education
PSAT	<p>Preliminary SAT: The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) is a shorter version of the SAT and includes the same types of critical reading, math, and writing skills multiple choice questions as the SAT® Reasoning Test. It also has a diagnostic component providing skills feedback. Administered in all MCPS high schools each year in October to 9th, 10th, and 11th graders, the PSAT/NMSQT aids high schools in the early guidance of students planning for college. For the 11th graders, the test also serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. 9th and 10th graders in all MCPS high schools take the test for no fee (paid for by MCPS). 11th graders are encouraged to take the test, but are required to register and pay a small fee. For more information on the PSAT, see:</p> <p>http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html</p>
PTSA	Parent Teacher Student Association
RT	Resource Teacher (Department Head)
SAG	Spending Affordability Guideline
SAGA	Whitman's yearbook, aimed at providing a record of the events of the school year. Students must be enrolled in the yearbook class to participate as full-fledged staff members. Students who are not enrolled in the class may still make writing or photography contributions
SAP	Student Assistance Program - a school based substance use and violence intervention program with the goal of identifying adolescents whose behavior, attendance, or grades indicate that they may have problems related to alcohol and/or other drug use or other emotional problems. Any individual can tell the Student Assistance team about his/her concern for a student; it will remain confidential. Various school team members then observe the student to evaluate the need for further assessment and referral.
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test: The test of developed language skills and mathematical reasoning abilities (formerly called SAT I), given on specified dates throughout the year at test centers in the United States and other countries. The SAT is required by many colleges and sponsors of financial aid programs. For more information from the College Board which administers the test, see: http://www.collegeboard.com
SAT Subject Test or SAT II	Tests in specific subjects (formerly called the SAT II), given at test centers in the United States and other countries on specified dates throughout the year. The tests are used by colleges not only to help with decisions about admissions but also to assist in course placement and exemption of enrolled first-year students. Find out more at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html
SGA	Student Government Association, Ms. Jennifer Webster, sponsor.
SIP	School Improvement Plan (see also Baldrige)

SMOB	Student Member of the Board
SNAP	School Nutritional Accountability Program
SPED	Special Education
SSL	Student Service Learning. The State of Maryland recognizes that well educated citizens must understand their responsibilities as part of the community. As such, students enrolled in MCPS or entering for the first time during Grade 6 or Grade 7 are required to have 60 hours of service learning prior to graduation. For those entering Grade 8 and above, the hour requirement is prorated. A change in the number of SSL hours required is under consideration, please go to: http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/ for more information and any revised requirements.
SSS	Student Support Specialist
TCCi	Now called Naviance, this provides information on colleges, historical acceptance trends, and scholarship listings. It helps students with college searches and college comparisons. It also has the college visit schedule and Whitman students' college acceptance and enrollment history for the three most recent years. This site is for all juniors and seniors and their families. A registration code to set up a personalized account can be obtained in the CIC from Mrs. Marmor.
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language used for college admissions. The TOEFL is designed to determine the English proficiency of students whose native language is not English. These students may take the TOEFL in addition to the SAT I or ACT. Students call (301) 718-9893 (Bethesda) or (301) 314-0319 (College Park) to schedule a convenient testing time at least six weeks in advance of the desired testing date. TOEFL is a computer-based test. Information bulletins are available in the Career Information Center or by calling 1-800-GO TOEFL, or by visiting the website at http://www.toefl.org
USDE	United States Department of Education
Welcome to Whitman Night	An evening dedicated to introducing freshman, new students and others to the clubs and organizations available at Whitman. Held in the early fall.
WGPA	Weighted Grade Point Average. An additional quality point is added to grades of "A" and "B" in all honors courses and to a grade of "C" in advanced placement and advanced level courses to determine WGPA. For more information see http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/policy/pdf/ikcra.pdf
Whitman Cluster	Walt Whitman High School, Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, and Bannockburn, Bethesda, Bradley Hills, Burning Tree, Carderock Springs, and Wood Acres Elementary Schools
Whitman Shorts	Whitman's Video News Program, aired approximately every three weeks