

## Glossary of Terms!

Certain words used in connection with the college application process may not be familiar to you. Most of these words pertain to the college application process and various procedures followed at colleges and universities. Here is a brief run-down of their meanings:

- ♣ A-G requirements - The seven required areas of study that one must complete in order to be considered for University of California schools (UCLA, UCSB, etc...) admission. These courses must be graded.
- ♣ Advanced Placement Courses - Courses available to students at their high school, which may give them college credit.
- ♣ Advanced Placement Tests - The tests given during the month of May to students who have taken the Advanced Placement class or students who have a desire to obtain college credit for a particular class.
- ♣ Alumni Interview - Admissions interview conducted by graduates of colleges to which you have applied. Often done locally when a student is unable to travel to a distant college.
- ♣ ACT- a test consisting of four academic areas that is meant to measure educational development, it is one of the options students have for sending colleges a standardized test to most colleges and universities. ACT can be taken with or without an optional writing test.
- ♣ Associate degree (AA, AS) - the degree given for completing a two-year program of college work, usually at a junior, community or two year college.
- ♣ Bachelor's degree (BA, BS) - the degree given for completing a college program of at least four years of academic work (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science).
- ♣ Candidate reply date - Establishes a common date, May 1, that is the earliest a subscribing college may require an accepted student to say whether he or she plans to attend.
- ♣ Class profile - the statistics which are related to a particular year of students.
- ♣ College Fair - a gathering of college representatives at a central location. Often accompanied by presentation on admissions, financial aid etc.
- ♣ Common Application - A form devised and accepted by more than 900 colleges to allow students to use one application in applying to college. Applications are available online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- ♣ Conditional Acceptance - Acceptance to a college on a conditional basis. Often an applicant will have to complete course work before a particular institution will confirm a placement.
- ♣ Consortium - Several colleges and universities in an area which join together in a cooperative association, giving students opportunities to use a variety of each other's programs, courses, libraries, lectures, etc.
- ♣ Core curriculum - a group of classes from a range of academic areas that are required on a particular college campus before a student will be awarded a degree. At some institutions many of these classes may serve as prerequisites for higher classes.

- ♣ Early Action - a college or university admission policy which allows students to apply early, be notified early, but does not ask for a student's commitment until May 1.
- ♣ Early Decision - a college or university admission policy which asks a student to apply early (usually between Nov 1st – Nov 30) in order to be notified early of admission decisions. If a student is accepted ED they are then obligated to attend that institution and withdraw all other applications.
- ♣ Educational Testing Service (ETS) - The operational phase of many of the College Board programs.
- ♣ Fee Waivers - Fee waivers are forms (or letters from counselor), which waive the fees of tests and application fees for students.
- ♣ Financial Aid - a variety of forms of money given to student to attend a college or university. The forms usually are the following: grants, loans, scholarships or work-study.
- ♣ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - a free application which students (and parents) use to apply for financial assistance from colleges and universities.
- ♣ Financial Aid Package - the variety of forms of financial aid that is awarded a student.
- ♣ Full-time student - a student who generally takes a minimum of 12 quarter or semester units (3-5 classes) per quarter or semester. In other words there are a certain number of courses one must take to be considered attending an institution full time. This is usually required if a student is receiving financial assistance.
- ♣ Grant - a part of the financial aid package which is money given to a student that does not have to be paid back.
- ♣ Impacted program or major - an overcrowded program or major in which there are many more applications than available spaces.
- ♣ Loan - a form of financial aid that has a student or parent borrowing funds for college expenses.
- ♣ Need Blind - A process whereby a college admission office does not consider a family's financial situation when making an admission decision. (A student may not receive financial assistance to make it possible for them to attend school).
- ♣ Need Conscious - A process whereby college admission decisions consider a family's financial situation before offering admission. (Institutions that follow this procedure feel that unless they can fully meet the need of the family, it is not fair to admit the student).
- ♣ Profile - A financial aid document which many independent colleges require when a student applies for financial aid. This form is available from College Scholarship Services (CSS).
- ♣ Rolling Admissions - the admission process which notifies students of their decision as they apply. Students are told of decision two to four weeks after applicant's file is complete.
- ♣ SAT Test - the major test given by the College Board to students who are applying to colleges and universities.

♣ Scholarship - a part of financial aid package, which is awarded to a student based on a specific skill or achievement.

♣ Secondary School Report (SSR) - the report required by some applications to college/university which asks the counselor or school administrator to fill out various statistics about the student and the school. This is often done electronically, although some colleges still use paper forms. Most SSRs require a counselor Letter of Recommendation.

♣ Technical program or school – a program that allows the student to gain a particular skill. These programs are usually associate or certificate programs.

♣ Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) - a standardized test similar to the SAT for students who do not have English as their first language. Often required or recommended for students who have studied fewer than two years in the United States.

♣ Transcript - an official document showing all your courses, grades and testing record.

♣ Tuition - the fee for instruction at a college or university.

♣ Waiting List - a decision that an applicant may receive from a private college or university. After May 1, the college or university will notify the applicant as to whether or not a space has opened up in the class.

♣ Work-study - a part of the financial aid package which has a student working to gain funds for college expenses. These jobs are usually during the school year and on campus.

♣ Yield - the number of students admitted to a college who in turn decide to attend that college. 41  
Financial Aid Terms

♣ FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (basic financial aid form)

♣ PROFILE - A supplemental form required by some colleges

♣ CSS - College Scholarship Service - they bring you the PROFILE

♣ FAA - Financial Aid Administrator at a college

♣ EFC - Expected Family Contribution (what parents and student can pay toward college for the year according to one's FAFSA)

♣ Gift Aid - Financial aid you do not have to pay back - grants or scholarships

♣ Self Help Aid - Money you have to pay back or earn - loans and jobs

♣ Federal Pell Grant - The primary federal grant program (formerly just Pell Grant)

♣ Federal Perkins Loan - Low interest federal loan program (need based) offered through colleges

♣ Federal Stafford Loan - Federal program available in both subsidized (need based) and unsubsidized (not need based) programs. Low interest; the interest is paid while the student is in school. These loans are obtained from a variety of lenders ranging from banks to the colleges themselves.

- ♣ Federal Plus Loan - Loan program for parents - not need based - apply to commercial lender
- ♣ Federal Work Study - Need based work program administered by the college
- ♣ GET – Guaranteed Education Tuition. Families can buy tomorrow’s college tuition today.