

ADMISSIONS TERMINOLOGY

Advanced Placement Tests (AP): A test given to high school students, usually at the end of their junior or senior year, after they have completed certain Advanced Placement classes. Many colleges give advanced standing and/or credit if a certain designated score is received on these tests.

American College Testing Program (ACT): A standardized test which measures aptitude and skill in English, social studies, math and science (includes an optional writing section). Some students who perform poorly on the SAT may do better on the ACT and vice versa. All colleges and universities in the United States accept the ACT.

Associate Degree: A degree granted by a college or university for a program that requires two years of full-time study.

Bachelors Degree: A degree granted by a college or university for a program that requires four years of full-time study.

Common Application: A form that may be used to apply to more than 450+ colleges. www.commonapp.org

Common Reply Date: At most colleges, May 1st is the date by which accepted applicants must indicate their intention to enroll. By use of the common reply date, students may evaluate all notices of admission and financial aid awards before deciding on anyone college.

Conditional Acceptance/Admittance: Acceptance letter offering a student a place in a university or college program as long as he or she meets specific conditions.

Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program: A program integrating classroom study and work experience and offering credit and salary.

Deferred: Temporary postponement of acceptance to a college program. If you applied to a school Early Action and were not accepted during that round, you can either be denied admission or you can be deferred (placed into) the regular admissions pool for consideration.

Early Action: An admission option in some colleges/universities that allows a student to apply early and be notified of acceptance early, but they are NOT be obligated to attend.

Early Admission: Allows students-to enter college before they receive their high school diploma.

Early-Decision: An admission option in some colleges/universities where students can apply early and if accepted they ARE obligated to attend.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): Financial aid application required for all federal student aid programs.

Financial Aid: The package of loans, grants and work-study that is offered to each college-bound student who completes the FAFSA.

Loan: An amount of money borrowed and that must be paid back.

Matriculate: To enroll in a college or university.

Open Admission: The practice of accepting all school applicants who meet basic requirements. Community colleges have open admission policies.

Regular Admission: The admissions schedule used by most colleges and universities. Applications are due Jan 1, Jan 15, or Feb 1; schools notify candidates between March 1 and April 15; students have until May 1 to respond.

Single Choice Early Action: A particular type of early action program in which students are specifically required not to apply Early Action to any other school, though they are free to apply elsewhere under the regular admissions round.

SAT Subject Test: One hour standardized tests offered in 'Subjects such as English, foreign languages, science, history, and mathematics. These tests measure a student's_ knowledge of particular subject areas.

Scholarship/grants: A financial or merit award that does not have to be paid back.

Test Optional: Some schools do not require standardized testing scores as part of their application process. A list of these schools can be found at www.fairtest.org

Wait-List: A list of students' who were not admitted to the college/university on the first round, but may be selected-during a second round if there are extra spots available.