

Common College Terms

Accreditation: Recognized as maintaining standards that qualify the graduates for admission to higher or more specialized institutions.

Associate's Degree: The degree given for completing certain college programs of at least 2 but less than 4 years of study, usually in a 2-year institution such as a junior college or community college.

Bachelor's Degree: The degree given for completing certain undergraduate college programs that normally take 4 years, also called the Baccalaureate Degree.

Class Rank: A student's approximate position in his / her graduating class, figured according to his / her grade average. It may be stated as a particular position, such as 2nd decile (top 20%) in a class of 350 students, or as some fraction of the class that he / she ranks in, such as the top one-third (3rd decile) or the top one-fifth (2nd decile) of the class.

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid: Information is requested about income and assets of both parents and students to determine eligibility for federal student aid. All students applying for financial aid must complete the FAFSA form which can be found online at, www.fafsa.ed.gov .

G.P. A. – Grade Point Average: A system used by many colleges for evaluating the overall scholastic performance of students. Colleges report G.P.A on a 4.0 scale. However, G.P.A's can be in the form of a letter grade, a percent grade, or a 4.0 scale. For example, a letter grade of a B+, would be equivalent to a percent grade of 87-89, and a 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. You can refer to the following link for a 4.0 G.P.A conversion chart, <http://www.collegeboard.com/html/academicTracker-howtoconvert.html>

Official Transcript: Colleges will only accept a transcript that bears the high school seal and is mailed directly from the high school to the college. Students need to inform Mrs. Holman that a copy of their, "official transcript", should be sent to the college / university that the student is applying to.

Pell Grants: A federally sponsored and administered program that provides grants based on need to undergraduate students.

Perkins Loan: The Federal Perkins Loan Program provides low-interest loans to help needy students finance the costs of postsecondary education. Students attending any one of approximately 1,700 participating postsecondary institutions can obtain Perkins loans from the school.

SAT 1 Reasoning Test: This is a standardized test that is used as part of the college admissions process. The test is intended to assess a student's readiness for college. Students are tested in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing.

SAT Subject Tests: The SAT subject tests are standardized tests given on individual subjects. Students typically choose which tests to take depending upon college entrance requirements for the schools to which they are planning to apply.

Semester: A semester consists of a period of approximately 17 or 18 weeks in duration. Colleges have, "Fall Semesters", which usually begin in late August and end in mid December, and "Spring Semesters", which usually begin in late January and end in the beginning of May.

Transfer Program: An educational program at a 2-year college that is offered primarily for students who plan to continue their studies at a 4-year college or university.

CATEGORIES OF COLLEGE DECISIONS

Early Decision

Some students are so sure of their college choice in the senior year that they apply for what is known as an Early Decision. Students electing this plan usually agree to withdraw any other application they may have submitted, if the first choice college informs them that they have been accepted for Early Decision. This is a binding agreement to attend if accepted. This may occur as early as November of the senior year. Depending on the date of notification and deadlines of other colleges of interest, students sometimes do not need to submit any other application when applying to their first choice school through the Early Decision program.

Early Action

Many colleges offer a plan called Early Action. This differs from Early Decision because students are not committed to enrollment. They have until the customary candidates' reply date to indicate their intention, i.e. May 1. Students may apply under Early Action to as many colleges as they choose, with the exception of certain Ivy Leagues colleges that allow only ONE Early Action application.

Rolling Admissions

A college will render a decision whenever they believe student's credentials are complete. These decisions are made at any time during the year, usually by February. In most cases they do not require a response until May 1, and no commitment to attend is expected until that date.

Open Admissions

The policy of a college to admit high school graduates and other adults generally without regard to conventional academic qualifications, such as high school subjects, high school marks, and admission test scores. Thus, virtually everyone who applies is accepted.

Waiting List

Students who are qualified for admission but whose credentials are less strong than others in the applicant pool, may be placed on a waiting list. They may be offered admission after May 1st.

Scholarship / Financial Aid Information

There are four major sources of scholarship assistance:

- The Federal Government
- Colleges / Universities
- Private Scholarships
- Local Scholarships

Federal Government – Our government is the largest source of scholarship aid. To apply for assistance, students and their parents must complete the FAFSA.

College Scholarships – All colleges have scholarships available to their students.

Private Scholarships – Many civic, business, fraternal, political, and women's groups offer scholarships. Many scholarships are available through clubs, employment, and other organizations the student or parent may belong to.

Local Scholarships – The guidance department receives many local scholarship applications that Mrs. Holman will post on the Kaynor Tech website. Students should periodically visit the website for updated information regarding local scholarship opportunities. Mrs. Holman will also keep a 3- ring binder in the guidance office with scholarship information.