

College Vocabulary

Associate's Degree: granted after satisfactory completion of a two-year program.

Bachelor's Degree: granted after satisfactory completion of a four-year program.

Calendar:

quarter - academic year is divided into four parts

semester - academic year is divided into two parts

trimester - the academic year is divided into three parts (students generally attend two sessions).

4-1-4 - two four-month terms and a one-month "inter" session.

Candidates Reply Date: May 1, the deposit deadline for most schools using the regular admission system.

Community College: a two-year college established by a state government; generally the tuition is low and the education of good quality.

Deferred Admission: permits an accepted student to postpone enrollment for a year or more.

Early Decision: student applies to first choice school. If accepted, the student must withdraw all applications from other schools and is ethically bound to attend this school. Students not accepted under Early Decision are often added to the regular pool of applicants.

Early Action: student applies early, but if accepted student need not accept the admission offer prior to May 1.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): the amount that your family is expected to contribute toward your education. The amount is similar for different colleges, even though the colleges' costs vary.

Fee Waiver: permits eligible students to submit college applications or test registration forms without the fee. A limited number are available through counselors and educational agencies.

Financial Aid Package/Award: a combination of grants/scholarships, loans and work study that the college is able to offer you to meet your financial need.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): the primary form used to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

Group Interview: an interview including several or many applicants with a representative from the college's admissions office. During these interviews, students hear about the school and ask questions.

Liberal Arts: a degree program consisting of study in the area of arts, natural sciences and humanities.

Open Admissions: all students who meet a college's minimum grade and test score requirements are accepted. Decisions are made continually throughout the year.

CSS Profile: used by colleges, universities, and scholarships to award their own private funds.

Regular Admissions: colleges using this plan generally have a January, February or March application deadline and notify all of the applicants at the same time (usually around April 15).

Rolling Admissions: the process in which colleges make decision as they receive completed applications. Even though the deadlines may be later than for other colleges, it still pays to apply as early as possible.

Student Aid Report (SAR): reports aid eligibility information from the FAFSA.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): test used to determine your English ability if English is not your first language.

Waitlist: the admissions committee determines that a student is qualified to attend the college, but there isn't enough room in the class. If room becomes available, the college takes people from the wait list.