

College Admissions Vocabulary

American College Testing Program (Act)

A standardized aptitude test preferred by some colleges, especially in the midwest and south, instead of the SAT. Students planning to apply to a college which requires this test should make the necessary arrangements with us in the fall of their senior year.

Associate Degree

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

Bachelor Of Arts (B.A.)

A degree awarded which indicates the student has studied one or more subjects in depth (including the sciences) and has also taken a wide distribution of courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, foreign languages and behavioral sciences. Typically, this is the only degree awarded by a liberal arts college.

Bachelor Of Science (B.S.)

This degree indicates the student has studied one or more subjects in depth (typically in the sciences, engineering, business, computers, etc.) but has not been required to take as many courses outside the field of concentration. Typically, this degree is awarded by universities.

Deferred Admission

Many colleges will agree to defer your admission for a year if you are planning to pursue a particular option which would not be available at another time (for example, a year of study abroad or an internship in Congress). You should talk with each college to determine their specific deferral policy. Deferrals are not automatically granted.

Test Of English As A Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the English proficiency of people whose first language is not English. If you believe this test would be appropriate for you to take, consult with your college counselor. We strongly recommend that students for whom English is a second language take the TOEFL.

Financial Aid Form (FAF)

Some colleges and universities require this standardized form from students who are applying for financial aid. The Financial Aid Form must be filed each year that aid is sought. These forms are available in the College Office in early December. Since financial aid procedures differ considerably, students applying for financial aid should be sure to inquire as to the forms required by each college.

Financial Aid Package

A financial aid package is awarded to students with demonstrated financial need. Packages typically consist of scholarships, grants, loans and a campus job. Such packages are designed to fill the gap between what the family can contribute and the actual cost of attending an institution. However, financial aid packages might differ considerably between different colleges. Be sure to review your package carefully.

Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)

A system used to evaluate academic performance. The most frequently used system of numerical values for grades is A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, and F=0. The G.P.A. is reached by multiplying the number of credits given for a course by the grade received in the course. May be weighted or unweighted.

Scholarship

A form of financial assistance which does not require repayment and is usually made to a student who shows potential for distinction, usually in academic performance.

Scholastic Assessment Test I: Reasoning Test (SAT I)

This test, graded on a scale from 200 to 800, measures students' mathematical and verbal ability and skill. Note: The test was formerly called the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

A test used to evaluate the English proficiency of those students whose first language is not English.

Wait List

A term used by institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or denying admission, but rather extend the possibility of admission in the future. Colleges offer admission to wait list candidates if insufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates accept their offers of admission. Please refer to the Statement of Students' Rights and Responsibilities for the rights which you are assured if placed on a wait list.