

COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY

Alumni: The group of people who have graduated from a specific college or university.

Application Deadline: The date, set by college admissions offices, by which applications must be submitted to the college for consideration. Deadlines vary by college. Check each college website for important deadlines.

Campus Visit/Tour: A service of the college admissions office for prospective students, allowing them to visit various campus buildings, meet key institutional personnel, and get a first-hand look at campus life.

Common Application Form: The Common Application (informally known as the Common App) makes it possible for students to use one admissions application to apply to any of over 500 member colleges and universities.
www.commonapp.org

Early Action: Early action is a plan that invites students to submit their application early but does not require the student to attend if accepted. EA deadlines are usually in October or November. Students may apply to as many EA schools as they wish.

Early Decision: Early decision, a plan offered by a select number of colleges, allows a student to apply between October and mid-January (generally) for an early determination of admissibility. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be early decision. If accepted through the early decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications.

First-generation Student: A student whose parents did not attend college or earn a college degree. Special programs and funding are often available to support these students.

Freshman Profile: A document published by a college that includes a summary of the GPAs and ACT/SAT scores of the previous freshman class. This profile gives a sense of how an individual student would fit in relation to other students at the college.

Grade Point Average (GPA): The cumulative average of all the grades earned beginning in ninth grade. The GPA is calculated at the end of each year. "Core GPA" is the cumulative average of grades earned in core subjects only.

In-state (Resident) Student: A student whose permanent residence is in the same state as the college or university she plans to attend. Out-of-state students generally pay higher tuition (almost double) than in-state students.

Rolling Admissions: A "first come, first served" process. A decision is made on admissions applications as they are submitted rather than according to a set deadline.

Selectivity: The degree to which a college or university admits or denies admission based on the individual student's record of academic achievement, which is reflected in the ratio of admitted students to the number of applications it receives. In general, Highly Selective schools admit 25% of applicants, Very Selective schools admit 25-50% of applicants, Selective schools admit 50- 75% of applicants, and schools with Open Admission policies admit applicants on a space-availability basis.

Transcript: The student's academic record that is sent by the high school to the college where the student is applying. The transcript includes a list of the student's courses taken, final grades, and cumulative GPA.

Tuition: The cost of attending the college and taking courses. Tuition varies by school and does not include things such as fees, housing, meal plans, insurance, etc. "Room and board" usually refers to the cost of housing and meal plans.

Undergraduate Student: A student enrolled in a 4-year bachelor's degree program, an associate's degree program, or a vocational or technical program.