

COLLEGE VOCABULARY

Academic Common Market

- Cooperative tuition reduction agreement among sixteen southern states that waives out-of-state tuition to students who wish to pursue certain programs of study not available in their home state.

Acceleration

- The completion of a high school or college program of study in less than the usual number of years. Often students attend summer school and carry extra courses during the regular academic term.

Accreditation

- Endorsement granted to colleges and universities that meet established standards formally approved by one of the regional accrediting boards.

Advanced Placement (AP) Tests

- Designed for students who have completed advanced work in specific subjects. A qualifying score may allow a student to receive college credit and/or to bypass some college courses. Tests are scored on a 1 to 5 scale.

American College Testing (ACT) Assessment

- A college entrance examination required by some colleges and accepted by most. It includes four sections: English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences.

Associate Degree

- A degree awarded after completion of a two-year college program of study.

Bachelor's Degree

- A degree awarded after completion of a four-year or five-year college program of study.

Candidate Reply Date

- The date by which most colleges require students to reply to offers of admission - May 1.

Class Rank

- The relative position of a student in his or her graduating class based on the cumulative grade point average.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

- Examinations taken by students who have gained experience through work, independent reading, or correspondence courses. Many colleges award advanced placement and/or degree credit based on a qualifying score.

Common Application Form

- An application designed to ease the workload of students and high school guidance personnel. The common application form is accepted by approximately 230 private and public colleges and universities.

Concurrent Enrollment

- A plan which allows students to take courses at nearby colleges while completing high school.

Four-One-Four Academic Year

- A modified semester system that provides a January or winter term of approximately one month for special projects that usually earn the same credit as a one-semester course.

General Educational Development (GED) Test

- A secondary school equivalency examination leading to a certificate that is accepted by many employers and colleges in place of a secondary school diploma.

Honors Program

- An enriched academic program for students of high ability and motivation. It often leads to a degree granted with honors.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit

- Advanced standing determined by a college for students who have a qualifying score on the IB subject exams. Tests are scored on a 1 to 7 scale.

Internship

- Program of supervised work experience related to a student's field of interest, performed with or without pay. Generally, the student receives degree credit.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

- The association of member colleges that makes rules governing eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid for student athletes.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

- A practice test preparing students for the SAT I. It serves as the only qualifying exam, (when taken in the junior year) for the National Merit Scholarship program.

Private College

- An academic institution financed primarily by tuition and endowments.

Public College

- An academic institution financed primarily by tuition, endowments and state or local taxes. Tuition for in-state students is reduced and programs and policies are state-regulated.

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

- Two- three- or four-year college-based military training programs leading to an officer commission upon graduation.

Retention

- The percentage of college freshmen that return for the following fall term.

SAT I: Reasoning Tests

- The College Board's assessment of reading, math, and writing skills. The scores are used as criteria for admission to colleges and universities.

SAT II: Subject Tests

- One-hour tests of knowledge in specific subjects. They are required by many colleges in addition to the SAT I. Occasionally the scores are used as admissions criteria; more often they are used to determine placement in college courses.

Semester System

- Division of the academic year into two units.

Terminal Program

- A program which prepares students for immediate employment following a course of study. It is available in many two-year colleges and vocational schools and results in an associate degree or certificate of completion.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

- An evaluation of the foreign student's proficiency in college-level English. Many colleges require the TOEFL for non-native English speakers.

Transfer Program

- A two-year program that results in an associate degree. It is designed for students who intend to continue their studies at a four-year college.

Trimester System

- Division of the academic year into three units. It is sometimes called a "quarter" system when the summer session is included.

Wait List

- Used by colleges to hold in reserve students who meet admissions requirements but cannot be accepted due to enrollment constraints.