

# Glossary of College ● Career Terms

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the institution as a whole has been judged to be meeting its objectives.

**Advanced placement (AP):** Granting of credit and/or assignment to an advanced college course on the basis of evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of an introductory course.

**Candidate Notification Date or Common Reply Date:** The date by which a college notifies a student of their decision, usually April 15.

**Candidate Reply Date Agreement (CRDA):** An agreement many colleges follow that gives applicants until May 1 of accept or decline offers of admission.

**The Coalition Application (Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success):** Free college planning tools for students providing a platform for online storage of planning and application materials. Provides a single location for researching schools, organizing materials, and at the appropriate time for applying to Coalition schools in a secured environment. Coalition schools represent a range of public schools with low-cost, in-state tuitions and private schools committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all their admitted students

**College calendar:** Common systems of instruction time:

- **Traditional:** two approximately equal semesters
- **Quarter:** three equal terms of about 12 weeks
- **Trimester:** calendar year divided into three equal semesters, the third replaces summer session
- **4-1-4:** two equal terms of about 16 weeks ea., with a 4-week interim term

**The Common Application:** A standard college application form accepted by many colleges/universities that are members of the Common Application association. Available @ [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org).

**Cooperative Education:** A combination of classroom study and work experience directly related to the classroom study.

**Credit hour:** A unit of academic credit that often represents one hours of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, etc.).

**The CSS Profile:** A financial aid form used primarily by colleges for determining non-federal financial aid, such as institutional scholarships, grants, and loans. The CSS Profile is a more detailed questionnaire than the FAFSA with an associated cost to complete. Available online @ [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).

**Deferred Admission:** Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

**Deferral:** A term used by the college to handle early-decision candidates who were not accepted in December but will still be considered for regular admissions.

**Early Action (EA):** An option to submit the college application before the regular deadlines. Admission decisions are released earlier than regular deadline decisions. *Differs from Early Decision in that the candidate is not committed to enroll at the accepting institution.* Students may submit applications to more than one early action deadline college.

**Early Admission:** A program in which a college accepts high school students to enroll before they graduate from high school. Admissions standards are more stringent for early admissions.

**Early Decision (ED):** An application process in which a commitment is made by the student to the institution, that if admitted, the student will enroll. Early Decision acceptance will require a nonrefundable deposit that may be well before financial aid packages are calculated.

**Early Notification:** A program in which applicants must submit applications by December 1 in order to receive an admission decision by February 1.

**Financial aid:** Money given or loaned to the student (parent) to help pay for college. Aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges and private organizations.

**Financial Aid package:** A combination of financial aid (possibly including a scholarship, grant, loan and/or work) determined by a college financial aid office.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** The application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. The FAFSA is an online process, free of charge, and it is used by most state agencies and colleges. Visit [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

**Grade point average:** A number that shows overall academic performance, computed by assigning a point value to each grade earned (generally, A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E/F=0).

**Grants:** Awards based on financial need that do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies, and educational institutions.

**Honors programs:** Any program offering opportunity for superior students to enrich their educational experience through independent, advanced, or accelerated study.

**Independent Students:** Those who are a) 24 years of age; b) an orphan or a ward of the court; c) a veteran; d) a graduate, professional or married student not claimed on a parental tax return; e) a student not claimed on a parental tax return for two years and demonstrated independence by reporting an annual income of \$4,000 or more.

**Major:** The subject of study in which the student chooses to specialize a series of related courses, taken primarily in the junior and senior years of college.

**Midyear Admission:** An option some colleges are now offering to certain candidates, allowing them to start classes in the second semester rather than in the fall.

**Open Admissions:** A policy of accepting any high school graduate.

**Priority Date or Deadline:** The date by which your application –whether for college admission, student housing or financial aid –must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

**Rolling Admissions:** A program in which the admission committee evaluates a student's application as soon as it is received. The student is then notified of the school's decision.

**Student Aid Report (SAR):** The information the student will receive approximately 3 to 6 weeks after the FAFSA has been processed. It will report the information from your FAFSA application and, if there are no questions or concerns with your application, your SAR will show your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC code is reported to colleges at the student's request and is used as a means to determine financial aid eligibility.

**Scholarships:** Non-repayable awards to students based on merit or merit plus need.

**Transcript:** The official record of course work at a school or college.

**Wait List:** A term used by institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or deny admission. Rather, the institution extends 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.

**Work-Study programs:** Jobs that allow students to earn money toward their education while they are enrolled in school. (Students can sometimes get jobs related to their program of study.)