

TERMS TO KNOW WHEN APPLYING TO COLLEGE

ACT – A standardized college entrance exam administered by the American College Testing Program. Four separate, multiple-choice tests measure knowledge of English, math, reading and science, and one optional writing test measures essay planning and writing skills. Some colleges/universities may not require the writing section.

Associate's degree – An undergraduate degree awarded by a college or university upon successful completion of a program of study, usually requiring two years of full-time study.

Articulation Agreement – formal agreements (or some would call a partnership) between two or more Colleges and Universities documenting the transfer policies for a specific academic program or degree in general.

B.A., B.B.A., B.F.A, or B.S. – B.A. stands for Bachelor of Arts Degree; B.B.A. stands for Bachelor of Business Administration Degree, B.F.A stands for Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree, B.S. stands for Bachelor of Science Degree

Bachelor's degree – An undergraduate degree awarded by a college or university upon successful completion of a program of study, typically requiring at least four years (or the equivalent) of full-time study.

Credit hours – Units that a school uses to indicate that a student has completed and passed courses that are required for a degree.

Common Application – A standard application form that is accepted by more than 750 member colleges and universities for admissions. Students can complete the form online or in print and submit copies to any of the participating colleges, rather than filling out individual forms for each school.

Campus Funds – Money that is allotted to a student to use on campus such as at their dining halls or other food kiosks.

College – A postsecondary institution that typically provides only an undergraduate education, and in some cases graduate degrees.

Community College – A public, two-year postsecondary institution that offers an associate degree.

Commuter – A student who commutes to the college or university to campus; does not reside on campus.

Curriculum – A program of study made up of a set of courses offered by a school.

Dean – The head of a division of a college or university.

Direct Accept – A student is directly accepted into their major of choice and does not have to reapply to that major.

Early Decision – A program offered by some colleges and universities that allows students to submit their applications early, typically in November, and receive decisions early, usually in mid- or late December.

First Generation Student – A student who is the first person in their family to attend a college or university.

Graduate Student – A student who already holds an undergraduate degree and is pursuing advanced studies at a graduate school, leading to a master's, doctorate or graduate certificate.

HEOP/EOP/SEEK – Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) provides supportive services and financial aid to NYS residents attending independent/private colleges and universities in New York State; EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) provides supportive services and financial aid to NYS residents to attend SUNY schools; SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) provides supportive services and financial aid to NYS residents attending at CUNY schools

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Letter of Recommendation (Letter of Rec.) – A letter written by a student's teacher, counselor, coach or mentor that assesses his or her qualifications and skills.

Major/Concentration – The academic subject area that a student chooses as a primary focus during his or her undergraduate studies.

Minor – An academic subject area that a student chooses to have a secondary focus on during their undergraduate studies.

Prerequisite – A required course that must be completed before a student is allowed to enroll in a more advanced one.

Private School – A postsecondary institution controlled by a private individual(s) or a nongovernmental agency such as religious organization. A private institution is usually not supported primarily by public funds and its programs are not operated by publicly elected or appointed officials.

Provost – The senior academic officer of a college or university who typically oversees all academic policies and curriculum-related matters.

Public School – A postsecondary institution that is supported mainly by public funds and whose programs are operated by publicly elected or appointed officials.

Resident – A student who lives on a college or university campus.

Rolling Admission – There is no deadline to apply to the college or university. Applications for admissions are reviewed as the application is completed.

SAT – A standardized college entrance exam administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) on behalf of the nonprofit College Board, which measures reading, writing and math skills. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school

Semester – A standard application form that is accepted by more than 750 member colleges and universities for admissions. Students can complete the form online or in print and submit copies to any of the participating colleges, rather than filling out individual forms for each school.

Test Optional – An admissions policy where a student can opt not to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of the admission application.

Transcript – An official record of a student's coursework and grades at a high school, college or university. A high school transcript is usually one of the required components of the college application process.

Undergraduate Student – A student enrolled in a two-year or four-year study program at a college or university after graduation from high school. Student is usually pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree.

University – A postsecondary institution that typically offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Vocational or Technical School – Vocational and technical programs are shorter, more focused training and educational programs that prepare their students for immediate employment.

Waitlist – A list of qualified applicants to a school who may be offered admission if there is space available after all admitted students have made their decisions.