

Common Terms

Naviance - A comprehensive college and career readiness program that helps align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals.

Common App – An undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to multiple member colleges and universities.

Dual Credit – College credit earned at high school level through local colleges/universities.

Direct Application – An application tied directly to the university that is usually found on a college/university website.

Written Evaluation – Required by some Common App schools. It is similar to a letter of recommendation but is completed by a school counselor.

Early Action – Non-binding commitment to school. Students will receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Early decision- Binding commitment to school. Student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college

Rolling Admissions - Candidates are invited to submit their applications to the university anytime within a large window. Candidates usually hear within 4-6 weeks.

Open Admissions - An unselective and non-competitive college admissions process in which the only criterion for entrance is a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

Cost of Attendance - This is the average cost to attend for one academic year (fall through spring). It includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, and personal expenses.

FASFA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid. All students interested in financial aid (loans/grants) for college will need to complete this form. Some schools also require this form in order to receive any scholarships even merit based.

*Grant –Financial Aid that does not have to be paid back.

*Loan –Financial Aid that does have to be paid back.

*Work Study –Federal program that provides part time jobs on campus for students with financial need.

Deferred- If you apply as an Early Action or Early Decision applicant, your application has been converted to a regular application. It will be reviewed again during the normal admission season. You have also been freed from any obligation to attend their school if accepted. If you applied during the regular admission cycle and have been deferred, then the school probably wants more information before they make a final admissions decision — such as senior year final grades or additional test scores.

Waitlisted – Your application review is complete but you not their first option. Waitlists are a safety net for colleges, allowing them to ensure that they have enough students to fill all of their vacancies. You will usually not hear until late in the year if you are accepted.

7th Semester Grades – These are the final grades issued after 1st semester your senior year. Some schools will ask that these be sent before they make a final decision.

Graduation Survey – A survey available to all seniors on their Family Connection account. It asks where the student will be attending as well as offers space to include any scholarship information. This is how a list is generated to send final transcripts to schools.

Associates Degree – A two year degree from an accredited college/university.

Bachelors Degree – A four year degree from an accredited college/university.

