



College Vocabulary

Financial Terminology

FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid—almost every student will be asked to fill this out, and you will need your parent/guardian’s information—looks at income and bases what federal government feels you can contribute (EFC=estimated family contribution)

Financial Aid (THIS GOES ON THROUGHOUT COLLEGE)

1. Grants—given by the government to help reduce cost (free money!)
2. Scholarships—offered by many Colleges/Universities in addition to other organizations (free money!)
 - A. Outside Agencies—Need to apply separately to organization
 - B. Within the College/University—Many times will be offered within a school once admitted—based on grades, programs, etc.—will come through in your “Award Letter”
3. Loans—Money you have to pay back if you can’t cover it all on Grants and Scholarships

Fee Waiver—If you qualify can use to help cover application fee or ACT

Award Letter—Once you are accepted, schools will send you a letter detailing what your estimated cost will be

Campus Bookstore—You purchase textbooks for your classes, option to sell them back later

WUE—Western University Exchange (can pay in-state tuition for some out-of-state colleges)

Applications

Common Application—Complete an application that can be sent to multiple schools- just pay attention to separate addendums each school may have

Résumé—List of your classes, activities, sports, community service, employment so that you can have a reference for your online application/essay

College Essay—Many schools will want you to submit an essay- This is your chance to tell them about yourself! Check the prompt to make sure you are answering what they are asking

Letter of Recommendation—Some schools will ask for these (you may not need them if your college does not require or unless you are on the border of their admissions requirements). They should be written by an adult who knows you well, and asked for personally (with a please and thank you)

Admissions

Who You Are When Applying—Look for the words “Freshman”, “New Student” or “Undergraduate” when applying online

In-State vs. Out-of-State—Where are you applying to? Remember cost will be different from location to location, private vs. public, etc.

Deferred Admission—After getting accepted you can ask a school to “hold your spot” until a future term (ex. planning a study abroad adventure)

Wait List—A school may place you on a waitlist—this is a “maybe” you can attend if their enrollments change

Rolling Admissions—No firm deadline to apply. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN TO WAIT—many places with a rolling deadline will reach their capacity, therefore denying you entrance! Apply early!!!!

Academics

Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s Degree, etc.—Each level is a different level of education. A “2-year” school will only offer the Associates, a “4-year” offers the higher levels. You can transfer (a certain number of credits) from a 2-year to a 4-year

Course Catalog—A school’s guide to their programs, degrees, requirements and classes (like ours!)

Credit Hours—How many hours a class is worth (many require you have a certain number of hours to be considered full-time student)

Degree Requirements—What classes and requirements you must have to achieve the degree

Majors vs. Minors—What subject matter you choose to pursue and focus on (to what degree you are working toward)

Pre-requisite Courses—Classes you must have before taking other classes

Learning Community—Comes in many forms, ex. honors dorm, theatre dorm, all freshmen dorm, classroom groups, etc.

General Requirements—Courses the colleges require you to have regardless of what your major is

Important People—RA (Resident Assistant), TA (Teaching Assistant), Professor, Academic Advisor

Campus Life

Greek—fraternities and sororities (social vs. academic)

Buildings—dorm, residence hall, dining hall, student union

Transportation—on-campus vs. commuter schools (some schools don’t allow cars for on-campus students)

Sports—teams vs. intermurals

Activities—clubs and organizations

Employment—campus jobs (ex. RA, tutor, dining hall, library, bookstore, and restaurant)