

College Admissions Vocabulary

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| ACT | A test given by the American College Testing Program that is either required or recommended for college admission. Subject exams measure development in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing. [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  |
| College Decision Day | May 1st—Colleges will expect a decision by this date. Some colleges will offer a financial aid package that has to be accepted earlier. |
| Common Application | A non-profit organization the serves member colleges/universities by providing an online admission application for use by interested students. Visit www.commonapp.org for a list of colleges/universities that use the common app. |
| Common Data Set | Institutional data about each university including percentage of students accepted |
| CSS Profile | An additional financial aid form for some private colleges through College Board. There is a fee paid through the College Board site. Can be sent to all colleges that need it for the same price. |
| Demonstrated need | Demonstrated need is the difference between your EFC and the total cost of attendance (COA). So if you're attending a school with a COA of $50K, then you have a demonstrated need of $20K. If you're attending a college with a COA of $25K, then you have no demonstrated need. |
| Early Action | When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II. |
| Early Decision | When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs.  |
| EFC | The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is a measure of your family’s financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. Your family’s taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (such as unemployment or Social Security) are all considered in the formula. Also considered are your family size and the number of family members who will attend college during the year. Your EFC is **not** the amount of money your family will have to pay for college **nor** is it the amount of federal student aid you will receive. It is a number used by your school to calculate the amount of federal student aid you are eligible to receive. |
| FAFSA | Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) |
| FSA ID | Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.  |
| Loans | There are many types of Student loans—subsidized (Stafford) and unsubsidized, through the government and private. Parent Plus loans may also be an option. |
| Merit and need Based Scholarships | Academic or **merit**-**based** **scholarships** typically reward students for their past educational success. **Need**-**based** **scholarships** are awarded to students who meet certain income requirements. |
| Net Price Calculator | Net price calculators are available on a college’s or university’s website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account. |
| Pell Grant | For the 2017–18 award year, the maximum Federal Pell Grant award is $5,920. Federal Pell Grants are awarded solely based on your financial. The grant can be used to pay for tuition, fees, and room & board. Money left over is paid to the student for other expenses: books, living expenses and transportation.  |
| Priority Deadline | The date by which your application — whether it’s for college admission, student housing or financial aid — must be received to be given the strongest consideration. |
| Rolling Admission | An admission process in which students are evaluated for admission as soon as the student's admission package is complete. |
| SAT | The College Board’s standardized college admission test. It features three main sections: math, reading and writing, which includes a written essay.  |

Admissions Quiz

1. What are THREE things that colleges will use to evaluate students?
2. T/F Colleges don’t look at the grades this year, just my junior year.
3. T/F All colleges use the same process to decide who they will select.



1. T/F If I am not poor, I can’t get any aid.
2. T/F Demonstrated Interest is a thing at every school

Admissions Quiz

1. What are THREE things that colleges will use to determine if I am accepted or not?
2. T/F I should be starting my applications soon.
3. T/F Colleges don’t look at the grades this year, just my junior year.
4. T/F All colleges use the same process to decide who they will select.



1. T/F If I am not poor, I can’t get any aid.
2. T/F Demonstrated Interest is a thing at every school.