

GLOSSARY OF TERMS For College Bound Students

ACT Assessment (ACT): tests which measure educational development in English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing. Offered six times a year, the ACT may be submitted in addition to or in place of the SAT for college admission. The Writing section of the ACT is optional.

Advanced Placement: granting of college credit and/or assignment to an advanced course on the basis of evidence that the student has mastered the equivalent of an introductory college course. AP testing takes place in May. Register at your high school in early February.

Appeals: applicants denied by UC and CSU campuses can appeal the decision if updated information warrants reconsideration. The student needs to provide this information to the Admissions Office *promptly* and directly. Letters of support from teachers will be considered.

CAR (California Aid Report): official notification of eligibility for state financial aid programs. Seniors must submit a **FAFSA** and a **GPA Verification Form** by March 2nd for consideration.

College Work Study Program: a government supported financial aid program coordinated through college financial aid offices whereby an eligible student works part time while attending college, generally on campus or in the local community.

Cooperative Work Study Education: a program in which the student alternates between full-time study and full-time paid employment related to the college major. Under this plan, the bachelor's degree usually requires a minimum of five years to complete.

Deferred Admission: Allowing an accepted student to postpone enrollment for one year. Students interested in taking a “gap year” should complete all college testing while enrolled in high school.

Early Admission: admitting students of superior ability into college courses and programs before they have completed the standard high school program. However, high school *graduation* is required in order to qualify for federal financial aid.

Early Decision: the option of applying to selective colleges early in the application season (usually in November). If accepted, the student is obligated to enroll at that campus. A student can apply to only one college under Early Decision. **Early Action** application options are not binding in nature.

Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA): a form used to collect information about the student's family income, assets, and expenses. This information is used to assess the family's potential contribution toward college expenses (*Expected Family*

Contribution or EFC). Some colleges may also require a supplemental financial aid application.

CSS Profile: a supplemental financial aid application required by some colleges to collect additional information about family finances.

Grade Point Average (GPA): an indicator of the student's overall scholastic performance. The GPA is computed by totaling the number of grade points earned in each course (generally, A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) and then dividing the sum by the total number of semester grades. Quarter grades are not used in this calculation. Honors points may also be included in the grade point average calculation.

Grade Point Average Verification: a form required by the *California Student Aid Commission* for its Cal Grant Programs. At most high schools the Registrar re-computes the GPA and either submits the data directly to the California Student Aid Commission, or returns the form to the student for mailing by the March 2nd deadline.

Honors Program: any program offering opportunities for superior students to enrich their educational experiences through independent, advanced, or accelerated study. AP and Honors courses generally earn an extra point (A=5) in computing the GPA.

Impacted Programs: majors for which there are more applicants than spaces at some or all CSU campuses. Higher standards may be applied to choose students for these programs, and the CSU application must be submitted by Nov. 30th.

Internship: a summer or college term spent gaining practical experience related to a particular major or career goal. It may be paid or unpaid, full time or just a few hours a week.

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. Community college students generally must select and prepare for a major prior to transfer.

Open Admissions: the policy of community colleges of admitting all high school graduates, regardless of grades, admission test scores, or graduation status.

PLAN: the practice version of the ACT (American College Test), given in the fall of the tenth grade. It includes an occupational interest inventory.

PSAT: a test given to high school sophomores and juniors to assess strengths and weaknesses as compared to other college-bound students across the nation. This test must be taken during the junior year to qualify a student for the *National Merit Scholarship* competition, and recognition programs for Hispanic and African-American students.

Priority Filing Period: in California, applications to the University of California, and impacted Cal State University campuses and majors, must be mailed or e-mailed by November 30th.

Regional Occupational Program: a program of study which prepares students for employment, often in a specific occupation. An ROP program can last a few months, or more than two years, and may lead to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree. ROP is available to high school students age 16 and older, and to adults in the county.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC): Air Force, Army, and Navy programs on selected college campuses which combine military education with baccalaureate degree study, often with financial support for students who commit themselves to future service in the Armed Forces. Scholarship recipients may have a limited choice of majors, based on the needs of the military branch.

Rolling Admissions: the practice of admitting or denying an applicant for admission as soon as all required forms and documents are received and evaluated. The CSU utilizes rolling admissions except for impacted majors and campuses.

SAT: the SAT Reasoning Test evaluates reading, math, and writing skills necessary for success in college. Colleges across the country accept both SAT and ACT scores for admission purposes.

SAT Subject Tests: One-hour achievement tests in a variety of high school subjects administered by the *College Board*. The University of California requires two SAT Subject Tests in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing. UC specifies that the subject tests must represent two different academic areas. Math 1 is not accepted.

SAR (Student Aid Report): official notification of eligibility for Federal Financial Aid, including the Pell Grant, and the *Expected Family Contribution* (EFC) to college expenses. Four to six colleges of the student's choosing will receive SAR information electronically.

SIR (Student Intent to Register): a form submitted to the college or university that a student plans to attend by May 1st of the senior year in high school. A tuition and/or housing deposit is typically required at this time. An SIR may be submitted to *one college*. Submitting more than one deposit may result in offers of admission being rescinded.

TOEFL: test of English as a foreign language. UC and CSU campuses require that applicants who have attended any high school where English is *not* the language of instruction submit TOEFL scores.

Transcript: official record of high school courses and grades generally required as part of the college application. UC and CSU applications include a *self-reported* transcript.

Do not send transcripts to UC or CSU campuses unless the campus requests a transcript *after* the application has been received.

Wait List: students not accepted by selective colleges may be offered a place on a waiting list. If fewer students accept offers of admission than expected, wait-listed students may be offered a space in the incoming class.