

College Admission Glossary

Application Terms

Candidates Reply Date

May 1st is the earliest date that a college can require an accepted student to commit to that college.

Deferred Enrollment

An accepted student may postpone entrance in order to work, travel, or volunteer for a specified period. Deferred enrollment must be agreed upon by both the student and the university before May 1st.

Early Action

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students may apply to more than one college through early action. *This is a non-binding commitment.*

Early Decision

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. Students may only apply to one school Early Decision. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. *This is a binding agreement.*

Restrictive Early Action

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

Open Admission

Virtually all applicants are accepted without regard to standardized test scores, gpa, or class rank.

Regular Decision

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

Rolling Admission

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

Deferred Admission

A student who applies early action or early decision to a university may be deferred, usually pending additional information. Students who are deferred are placed into the overall regular decision pool and their decision is delayed.

Wait List

A student's offer of admission is put on hold. If space becomes available in the class prior to fall matriculation, colleges sometimes admit students who are on the wait list. In most cases, wait list offers are made after May 1. Students must enroll at another institution before May 1 even if they are active on a different institution's wait list. Wait List offers should be made by the college by August 1.

Financial Aid Terms

Financial Aid Package

The amount of scholarship, grant, loan and work-study money an individual school will offer a student.

FAFSA/Free Application for Federal Student Aid

The government form utilized by many colleges and universities to determine the amount of financial aid a family is eligible to receive.

CSS Profile/College Scholarship Service

This form is used in conjunction with the FAFSA by some institutions to calculate a family's financial aid package.

EFC/Expected Family Contribution

The amount of money your family is expected to pay towards your education for one year. This amount is calculated by submitting financial aid forms.

Demonstrated Need

Demonstrated need is determined by subtracting the EFC from a school's total cost. This is the amount of aid a student is eligible to receive at a particular institution.

SAR/Student Aid Report

When a family submits the FAFSA they will receive several pages of information -- this is the SAR. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is listed on the SAR.

Merit-Based Grant

A scholarship awarded to a student based upon academic success, special attribute or talent.

Need-Based Grant

A monetary award based upon the financial need of a family. Grants do not need to be paid back.

Subsidized Loan

A loan in which the interest is paid by the government while a student is attending college.

Unsubsidized Loan

The interest either accrues or is paid while a student is enrolled in college for this type of loan.

Work-study

This is a government-sponsored financial aid program in which a student works on campus. Students must earn at least the federal minimum wage.

Online Career Resources

Web site	Features
www.njsca.org/col/col&car.htm	Links to a comprehensive array of career planning sites, including interest inventories; tools to match majors with possible careers; descriptions of various careers; job banks; military information; and volunteering opportunities to expose students to different careers.
http://online.onetcenter.org	Information on a variety of occupations. Tool to match skill sets with careers.
www.bls.gov/oco	Occupational Outlook Handbook. For a large number of careers, reveals training needed; expected income; employment prospects; work conditions; and a description of day to day responsibilities.
http://www.nextstepmagazine.com/nextstep/career-profiles.aspx	Provides similar info to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, but covers fewer occupations. Includes quotes from someone in each career. Focus is on how to pursue each career.

www.acinet.org	Information on occupational trends; salary and benefits; education and training for careers. Tips on writing resumes and interviewing.
www.illinoismentor.org/Career/CareerCenter/	Sorts careers into clusters. Links to self assessments and tools to match skills with careers. Resume-building feature.
www.career.missouri.edu/students/explore	Articles about how to explore interests and choose careers.
www.militarycareers.com	Information on the many and varied career opportunities in the military.