



**ACT Test:** similar to the SAT Test, it measures how much a student knows as they apply for admission to college. Students must pay to take the test unless they have a fee waiver.

**Accuplacer Test:** a placement test to determine if a student is prepared for college-level courses. Usually free.

**Admission /Application/Acceptance:** You must apply to get into college. The process colleges use to decide who gets in is called admission. Colleges review each application and decide which students to accept. Students receive a letter of acceptance or rejection telling them whether they have been admitted.

**Advanced Placement (AP®):** AP® courses offer college-level coursework in high schools. If students want college credit, they can take an end-of-the-year exam which covers all of the course material.

**Apprenticeship:** An apprenticeship program combines on-the-job training in a skilled craft or trade with classroom study. The student, also called an apprentice, is trained and prepared for advanced training or employment in a higher-than-entry-level position.

**Associate Degree:** To earn an associate degree, you must complete a program that is at least two but less than four years of college work, usually at a community or technical college. These programs are often designed to transfer to a four-year college.



**Bachelor Degree:** The undergraduate degree offered by four-year colleges and universities.



**College:** An institution of higher education that awards degrees and certificates.

**Community and Technical College:** A two-year institution of higher education. Courses and credits can generally transfer to a four-year college. These colleges also offer work-related and technical programs to prepare students for the world of work.

**Core Course:** Core courses include math, science, English, and social studies or history.

**Cost of attendance:** The total cost for one year of college. It includes tuition, fees, books, food, housing, and transportation.



**Debt:** as in “student debt”. The total amount of money borrowed to pay for college/grad school expenses plus interest.

**Degrees:** Degrees are what you earn when you complete a program of study. The most commonly earned degrees are: associate, bachelor, and graduate.

**Demand:** In economic terms, the ability and the willingness to buy. You may want to buy a Hummer but if you lack the ability to pay for it, there is no demand.

**Doctoral Degree:** The highest degree offered by colleges and universities. This degree can take five or more years after a bachelor’s degree to complete.



**Early Action:** When students apply to a college and specifies it is their first choice. The deadline for applications is usually November 1<sup>st</sup>, students learn the decision by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The decision is not binding on the student. Only a few, very select colleges allow Early Action.

**Early Decision:** When students apply to a single college. The application deadline is usually November 1<sup>st</sup> and students learn the decision by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The decision is binding. If admitted, students MUST ATTEND.

**Electives:** Classes you can choose to add to your school schedule; they are not required.

**Enlist:** To join the military after graduating from high school.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** The amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward college costs. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) determines your EFC.

**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Non-classroom or after-school activities, including sports, clubs, student

government,



**FAFSA:** Free Application For Federal Student Aid. This online application at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) MUST be completed in order to receive any financial aid. The federal government determines how much a family can afford to pay for college (the EFC or Expected Family Contribution) and informs the college of this amount. Colleges are expected to take the EFC into consideration when determining financial aid packages.

**FAME:** The Financial Authority of Maine oversees multiple college scholarships, college loan programs and serves as a clearinghouse for all things related to financial aid.

**Fees:** College costs not included in tuition. Fees may be charged to cover the costs of materials and equipment required in some classes.

**Financial Aid:** Financial aid includes grants, scholarships, loans, and part-time employment from federal, state, institutional and private sources. These types of aid are combined to create an “award package.” The type and amount of aid you receive is determined by financial need, available funds, student classification, academic performance, and sometimes the timeliness of your application.

**Financial Need:** The difference between what a family is expected to contribute and the total cost of attendance for one year of college. Financial Need equals Cost of Attendance minus Expected Family Contribution. Also known as the Financial Aid Gap, personal loans must be obtained or fewer classes taken per semester.

**Four-year colleges and universities:** These schools offer certificates, bachelor’s (sometimes called four-year degrees), masters, professional, and doctoral degrees in broad subject areas like business administration, history, or biology.



**Grade Point Averages (GPA)/Letter Grades:** Most colleges consider letter grades and GPAs in admissions. Many colleges recomputed your GPA to make sure all candidates for admission are treated equally.

**Graduate School:** Education after earning a bachelor degree. May be law school, medical school, or a program that grants a master degree or a PhD (Doctorate). Usually 2-6 additional years of schooling.

**Grant:** Similar to a scholarship. Money awarded by a college to a student for college expenses and it does not need to be paid back although sometimes a minimum grade point average is required to keep it for the following year.

**Guidance Counselor/Academic Advisor:** This person will help you choose high school courses, review

the requirements for your chosen career, and help with any problems.



**Higher Education:** Any program of study or degree program for high school graduates or people with General Education Development (GED) certificates.



**Interest:** The cost to use a bank's money for a loan. Usually a percentage rate. (Example: if a student borrows \$31,000 at 6% interest for college expenses and repays it over 20 years, the final cost will be \$53,302)

**Interest Inventories:** Short quizzes that help you learn which jobs or career clusters might be right for you.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) - IB** concentrates on multi-subject study. Students enrolled in IB can earn a special diploma and college credits by taking IB courses and passing comprehensive examinations.



**Journey-level Worker/Trade Professional:** A master of a specific skilled trade, like carpentry, masonry, plumbing, etc.; one who has studied and worked in a skilled trade for many years.



**Liberal Arts College:** Offers many majors such as history, biology, sociology, education, political science which may serve as preparation for graduate school. Students take a variety of courses across the curriculum before deciding which they want for their major. May not need to declare major until sophomore year

**Lifelong Learning:** The idea that a person can and should learn throughout his/her whole life.

**Loan:** As in "student loan": Money borrowed to be used for college costs such as tuition, fees, books, housing, etc. Loans **MUST** be paid back along with interest, usually over a period of time ranging from 10-30 years. Loans may be deferred until the degree is completed but the interest continues to be charged.



**Master's Degrees:** This is a graduate degree added onto a bachelor's degree. It usually takes two years to complete.

**Merit-based Financial Aid:** Financial aid based on high academics or test scores.



**Need-based Financial Aid:** Financial aid given to students with a demonstrated financial need.



**Occupational Education:** Work-related classes or programs of study such as bookkeeping, keyboarding, and business technology.

**Open Admissions Policy:** Open admissions institutions are usually public two-year community and technical colleges. The term “open admission” refers to an admission policy that says almost anyone with a high school diploma or General Education Development certificate (GED) can be admitted to that college.

**Opportunity Cost:** A benefit, profit, or value of something that must be given up to acquire or achieve something else. The *opportunity cost* of going to college is the money you would have earned if you worked instead. The opportunity cost of NOT going to college is the lost earnings from a career that would have provided a significantly higher salary.



**Pre-professional Schools:** colleges that offer a certificate, associate or bachelor degree leading to a specific career: paralegal, business, culinary, etc.

**Private colleges:** These colleges are sometimes called trade schools or voc-tech programs. They offer apprentice and journeyman programs for skilled tradesmen like plumbers, machinists, electricians, or carpenters. The length of each program varies, but many can take three or more years to complete.

**Proprietary or for-profit schools:** These schools can offer bachelor's and master's degrees, but most offer associate's degrees or certificates in office management, medical assistance, cosmetology, dental hygiene,

computer systems engineering, and more.

**PSAT®:** The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is designed for juniors and is co-sponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The PSAT®/NMSQT measures the critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills that you've been developing throughout your life. It does not measure things like creativity and motivation, and it doesn't recognize the special talents that may be important to colleges.

**Public/Private Colleges:** Public colleges are run by the state or other government agency and are managed by public boards. Governments do not run private colleges.



**Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC):** This program can help college students pay for their education. In return for scholarship money, students agree to serve in the military. Junior ROTC students are not required to serve.



**SAT I® and SAT II®:** The SAT I® and the ACT Assessment® are both widely used admissions tests. Many colleges accept either one, but some require one or the other. The SAT I® measures your verbal reasoning, critical reading, and math problem solving skills. It tells you how well you use the skills and knowledge you've learned so far, both in and out of school. SAT II Subject Tests® show colleges your mastery of specific subjects, like English, history and social studies, math, science, and language.

**Supply:** the total amount of a specific good or service that is available to consumers



**Tech Prep:** A four-year program that usually begins in 11th grade. Students take classes in selected career fields and receive college credits in return. While in the program, students work in business and industry, testing their skills in the real world.

**Transcript:** A permanent record of all the classes you take and grades you earn while in high school or college. It may also show any honors or awards you receive.

**Transfer of Credits:** Some students attend more than one college during their college careers. When they move or transfer from one college to another, they can transfer certain credit hours or classes from the old college to the new one. The new college determines which courses will count toward its graduation

requirements.

**Tuition:** The amount colleges charge for each hour of class time. Tuition does not include the cost of books, fees, room, or board (food). Tuition charges also vary from college to college.

**Tutor:** A person who helps a student with homework or study skills.



**Undergraduate:** An undergraduate student is pursuing either a one-, two-, or four-year degree.

**University:** A university offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.



**Wait List:** When a student is not admitted or denied admission to a college but placed on a list the college MAY draw from if some of their accepted students choose a different college to attend.

**Waivers:** Forms that allow a student to apply for a college for free or take a test such as the SAT for free. These are usually based on family income.

**Work Study:** part of a financial aid package that allows students to earn money and work experience while in college. Jobs are usually part-time, allowing you to attend classes and to study. Jobs are related to your career interests, whenever possible.