

TCHS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

Academic Achievement Record (AAR): An AAR (aka *transcript*) is a copy of a student's high school record. This document includes TAKS, STAAR/EOC, SAT, ACT, and AP scores. Test scores will not be sent without written permission from student or parent. It must be mailed directly to the college admissions office from the high school. Students must make a request for the AAR to be mailed. A final AAR is a copy of the student's record that identifies the student as having graduated. The student must inform the office if and where a final transcript is to be sent.

Admission Testing: The two major testing programs that are utilized for admission purposes are: (1) the SAT; and (2) the ACT. You should consult the individual college catalog to determine which test is required. It is your responsibility to have your scores sent directly from the testing agency to the college(s) of your choice.

Advanced Placement: College-level courses taught as a part of the high school curriculum are called Advanced Placement courses. Once you complete an Advanced Placement course, you may elect to take the AP exam. Depending on your score, you may be awarded college credit and/or assignment to an advanced course at the institution you choose to attend.

College Application: A college application is required by every college. It can be as simple as requiring only your name, address, telephone number, and the term you desire admittance, or as complex as one that requires detailed information such as references, letters of recommendation, essays and/or an autobiographical sketch.

While many colleges prefer that students apply online to their schools, applications may be typed or printed in dark ink and mailed. Many require a fee. You should consult your guidance counselor for the procedure for mailing transcripts with your applications.

Concurrent and Dual Credit: Students enrolled in grades 9-12 are eligible to be awarded credit toward high school graduation for completing college-level courses.

College Catalog: The college catalog is a vital source of information for you. It describes the college's physical plant, campus, admission policies, costs, programs of studies, and individual courses.

College Visitation: Most colleges and universities encourage applicants and their parents to visit the campus. These visitation days are normally scheduled on a weekend so that students will not have to miss school. Students desiring to visit a college or university should contact the office of admissions for details. Follow school policy if missing a day of school.

College Work-Study Program: This is a government-supported financial-aid program coordinated through financial-aid offices whereby an eligible student (based on need) may work part time while attending class at least half-time, generally in college related jobs.

Common Application: Many universities/colleges use this generic application. These forms are available in the counseling center and on-line. The Common Application is available at <https://www.commonapp.org/Login> and the Texas Common Application is available at https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

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

Free Application for Federal Student Aid: The FAFSA is the form required in the federal financial aid process. This form should be completed in January of the senior year. This form is used to collect information about the student's total family income, assets, and expenses and to assess the family's potential contribution toward college expenses. The FAFSA arrives after Thanksgiving and is available on-line at <http://www.fafsa.gov>

Grade Point Average (GPA): A student's final GPA on the AAR (transcript) is the average of all grade points earned for courses taken during grades 9-12.

Grant: Grants are gift awards made on the basis of financial need, which do not require repayment. Grants are available from the federal government, state agencies, and educational institutions.

Housing Deposit: Housing deposits are paid to reserve a room in a college or university dormitory. This fee is usually paid after acceptance to a college or university. Deadlines for housing deposits are usually strict. Students should respond promptly to requests for housing deposits. Check university guidelines.

Loans: Money that must be repaid.

Open Door Admissions: An Open Door Admissions Policy means that the college or university does not have a specific entrance requirement other than graduation from high school or its equivalent.

Pell Grant: A Pell Grant is financial aid awarded by the federal government on the basis of need, designed to provide the basis of an aid package for post-secondary education. The grant may be used toward tuition, room and board, books, or other educational costs, and requires no repayment.

Recommendations: Many colleges and universities require that students submit letters of recommendation with their application. These recommendations should include reference to the student's distinctive qualifications and academic ability. Students who request others to complete letters of recommendation for them should allow sufficient time (a minimum of three weeks) for the individuals to complete them. Recommendations are sent to the requesting agency.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC): Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine programs, available on certain college campuses, combine military education with Baccalaureate degree study. JROTC provides financial support for those students who commit themselves to future service in the Armed Forces.

Scholarships: These are gifts of financial assistance. Financial need or special ability is sometimes considered.

Texas Common Application: Texas Common Application must be used to apply to any Texas public university. This can be done on-line at <http://www.applytexas.org> or by hard copy.

Transcript: See Academic Achievement record.