

## Terms to Know



**ED - Early Decision** – Applicants apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college and receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually by December). Applicants agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family, and may apply to only one college using the Early Decision option, but can apply to other colleges under the regular admission option. In addition, the student must withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED, and send a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

**EA – Early Action** – Applicants apply early, and receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February). Students can consider acceptance offer; they do not have to commit upon receipt and can apply to other colleges under regular admission plans. The student must also give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

**Rolling Decision** – Colleges with rolling admissions evaluate applications as they are received versus waiting to evaluate all applications after a hard deadline. Schools will continue to evaluate applications until they've filled all the slots for their incoming class.

**Regular Decision** - The normal process by which students apply by published deadlines, with promise of receiving an admissions decision no later than April 1 of their senior year.

**Safety** - Institutions with flexible admission standards are often treated as "safety" colleges. This term refers to colleges whose requirements mean little chance of rejection for that applicant. Most students apply to just one safety, but a student may opt for an academic safety and a financial safety.

**Probable colleges** - A "probable" college is one that the student feels will fulfill needs and desires; one the student could happily attend, even though it may not be the first choice. The student should fit the general admission criteria in academic and social arenas. A good rule of thumb is to have two to four probable colleges under consideration.

**Reach colleges** - These are the top choices, but ones that are less likely to accept the student. This may be because the student's qualifications match or fall slightly short of the college's average, and the competition for the limited places in the freshman class is intense. Students should have one or two colleges in this category.

**Common App** - An undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of more than 700 member colleges and universities in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

**Naviance** – An online platform used for data collection, record keeping and research on colleges and careers. All AHS students have a Naviance account.

**FAFSA** – FREE application for federal student aid. In order to qualify for any student loans, grants, work study, awards or scholarships a student and a parent must complete this application. For the graduating class of 2019, parents will need their 2017 Income Tax return and an FSA ID number.

**FSA ID** - Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your *federal student aid* documents.

**College Board** – Organization that creates and administers the PSAT, SAT and AP exams. Students should have a College Board online account in order to practice for the exams AND view and send scores to colleges.

**Fee Waiver** – Available for SATs, ACTs and College Applications to students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. They are available through your counselor.

Liberal Arts	University
Focus on well-rounded education	Focus on research
Typically small in enrollment size	Typically large in enrollment size
Emphasis on undergraduate education	Graduate, Ph.D., and professional education offered
More classroom discussion	Large lecture classes
Typically few or no teaching assistants	Use of teaching assistants
Small class sizes	Big class sizes
Less competition to attain leadership positions	National name recognition
More attention with faculty	Bigger focus on athletics
Sometimes described as "mini-high schools"	More anonymity on campus
<b>Examples: Eastern CT State University, Skidmore, Wheaton, Williams</b>	<b>Examples: UConn, Fairfield University, Quinnipiac, Penn State, Syracuse</b>

