

## COLLEGIATE TERMS

### **Advanced Placement (AP)**

A college may permit a freshman to skip, or even receive credit for an introductory course if he/she demonstrates readiness for an advanced course. Many students prove their competence by enrolling in advanced placement courses in high school, and then passing an advanced placement exam given by College Board. These exams are graded from 1 (low) to 5 (high) and most colleges grant advanced placement credit or class waivers with a grade of 3 or better.

### **American College Test (ACT)**

The American College Testing Program is the organization that administers the scholastic aptitude examination known as the American College Test. The ACT is one of the two major nationally standardized assessments and covers English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The highest score is 36. NOTE: The new ACT *with* writing is scored differently. Students who take the ACT with Writing, may be exempted from taking SAT II tests for admissions purposes. Students should check with each college individually to determine what testing is required for admission purposes.

### **Candidates Reply Date Agreement**

Sponsored by the College Board, this agreement established a common date, May 1, which is the earliest time a subscribing college may require an accepted applicant to say whether or not he/she plans to attend.

### **CSS/Financial Aid Profile**

This is the form used by the College Board and some schools (many private) to award their own private financial aid funds. Students pay a fee to register for the PROFILE and send reports to institutions and programs that use it. This is NOT a federal form and may not be used to apply for federal student aid. This form is also available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

### **IB Diploma Programme (DP)**

From [www.ibo.org/diploma](http://www.ibo.org/diploma): The IB Diploma Programme is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The programme is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities. The DP exams are graded from 1 (low) to 7 (high).

### **Early Action**

Under this program, you may file only one early application. If admitted, you are under no obligation to matriculate and may apply to other colleges under their regular programs. Early action is designed for students who feel comfortable about applying on the basis of their junior year record. (This is not the College Board approved Early Decision Program.) Early Action applicants will be notified by January 1 as follows: ADMIT, DEFER, or DENY.

### **Early Decision**

Some colleges will notify applicants of acceptance or rejection during the first semester of their senior year. There are two types of early decision plans; the single-choice plan and the first-choice plan. In the single-choice plan, students cannot apply to other colleges unless the early decision college has notified them with an acceptance or a rejection letter. In the first-choice plan, students may apply to

other colleges, but name the early decision college as the first choice and agree to enroll at that college and withdraw all other applications if accepted.

**Family Connection by Naviance**

An online tool to determine one's best college and career pathway.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

This is the form used to apply for financial aid from federal student aid programs. Some states and college financial aid programs may require additional information. Forms may be filed after January 1 of the year for which one is seeking aid. FAFSA forms are available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Financial Aid**

Money which may be derived from a variety of sources (grants and scholarships, loans and work-study), will help pay for college costs. The "package" of funds is determined by family financial need and the availability of funds.

**Financial Need**

Financial need is the difference between the cost of education and what the family or the applicant can reasonably be expected to contribute.

**General Education Development Examination (GED)**

This is a series of tests that adults take to qualify for a high school equivalency certificate or diploma. Many colleges will accept satisfactory GED test results in place of a high school diploma. Individuals in Michigan must be 18 years of age and their class must have graduated before they can take the GED.

**International Baccalaureate Programme (IB)**

From [ibo.org/mission](http://ibo.org/mission): The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

**MME – Michigan Merit Exam**

The Michigan Merit Exam is given to all current juniors throughout the State of Michigan. This assessment includes an actual ACT Assessment with Writing that students may use for college admission purposes.

**PLAN**

A shorter practice version of the ACT. This practice test is given to tenth graders each year. It allows students an opportunity to experience a standardized test and also gives them career information.

**PSAT/NMSQT**

A shorter practice version of the SAT: Reasoning Test, the PSAT is administered by high schools every year in October. The PSAT/NMSQT serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation when taken as a junior. We encourage students to take the PSAT as a junior if they feel they may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship.

**Rolling Admissions**

This type of admission is used by colleges to give a decision as soon as possible after an application is completed and mailed and does not specify a notification deadline. Usually, it is wise to apply early to these colleges, as applications are normally not accepted after their admission quota has been reached.

**SAT I: Reasoning Test**

The SAT, administered by the College Board, is one of the two major nationally standardized assessments. This test is designed to measure proficiency in mathematical and verbal ability. The highest score in each section is 800. The “new” SAT that began in March 2005 includes verbal ability, mathematics, and writing skills, and has a total score possibility of 2400.

**SAT Subject Tests**

These are hour-long tests given by the College Board to measure ability in specific subject areas. Many selective colleges and universities require the SAT Subject Tests. Check out each college testing requirements individually through the college website.

**Student Aid Report (SAR)**

This report is produced by the US Department of Education and sent to students in response to their having filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The report contains the federally calculated amount that the family is considered capable of contributing to educational expenses.

**Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**

This is a test of listening comprehension, structure and written expression, reading comprehension and vocabulary. This test is used specifically for students who use English as their second language.