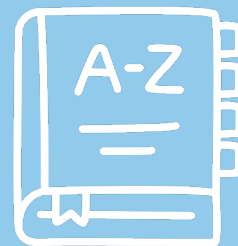


# EA College Counseling:

## COLLEGE ADMISSION DICTIONARY: IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY



### APPLICATION MATERIALS AND TYPES

**Common Application:** Accepted by hundreds of colleges and universities, the Common App includes basic demographics, academic information, extracurriculars, and a personal statement. Many schools have additional questions and supplemental essay(s). We recommend using the Common App as your main application platform.

**Download:** [EA Common App Guide](#)

**Questbridge:** An application and process connecting high-performing students from low-income backgrounds with potential full scholarships to over 50 different colleges.

**Self-Reported Academic Record (SSAR/SRAR):** Form allowing students to self-report courses and grades completed and earned for high school credit. Required at dozens of universities.

**Learn more:** [EA SSAR/SRAR Resource](#)

**Unique Individual applications:** Some universities (Georgetown, MIT) have their own application and do not accept other platforms.

#### Unique State System applications:

**CalState Apply:** This is the only application accepted for 23 universities across California. No essays are required, and grades are self-reported. The deadline is late November.

**UC Application:** This is the only application accepted for the nine University of California campuses. Late November deadline.

**Download:** [EA UC Guide](#)

#### International University applications:

**University and College Admission Service (UCAS):** This is the required undergraduate degree application for all universities in the United Kingdom.

**Canada** - Many Provinces have one application platform for all public universities within the region. For instance, Ontario uses [OUAC](#). Quebec does not have a common application system; students must apply through the admission office of each university.

**Europe and Ireland** - Many countries have their own university system, application, requirements, and timeline. Some, like Ireland, require students to apply directly to the institution.

### APPLICATION ROUNDS

**Early Action (EA):** A non-binding application with an early deadline (sometimes as early as 10/15) and decision release.

**EA1:** Deadlines are on or close to Nov. 1. Decisions are released in late December through January.

**EA2:** Deadlines are typically in January. Decisions are released in February or March.

**Restrictive Early Action (REA):** Student may not apply ED1 elsewhere and may not apply EA to private institutions, with exceptions.

**Single-Choice Early Action:** Student may not apply EA or ED elsewhere. Exceptions include, but are not limited to, applying Rolling or EA to a public university.

**Early Decision (ED):** Early application with a binding commitment. The contract is signed by the student, parent/guardian, and counselor. If admitted ED, the student must enroll at that school and withdraw all other applications.

**ED1:** Deadlines are on or close to Nov. 1. Decisions are released before the end of December.

**ED2:** Deadlines are typically in early January. Decisions are released before the end of February.

**Priority:** Applications received by priority deadline receive preference in admission review. Decisions are often released on a rolling basis.

**Regular Decision (RD):** This is the largest college application deadline, which occurs on or close to Jan. 1. Students receive decisions in late March/early April.

**Rolling:** With ongoing deadlines, students may submit applications over the course of many months and will hear within 6-8 weeks. University fills class on a "First Come, First Served" basis.

### CONSIDERATIONS IN APPLICATION REVIEW

**Holistic Admissions:** Application review that considers an applicant's whole profile, not just their grades or test scores.

**Activities:** On application, students document Upper School extracurricular activities, inside and outside of school. May include, but not limited to: athletics,

clubs, family responsibilities, performing arts, volunteer commitments, and employment.

**Download:** [EA Summer Activity Guide](#)

**Demonstrated Interest (DI):** Student engagement with the university (visiting the school, attending a college rep visit at EA, engaging in virtual programming, emailing an admission officer, etc). Some schools consider this in admissions decisions.

**Download:** [EA College Visit Guide](#)

**Download:** [Acing the Interview](#)

**Letters of Recommendations (LOR):** College counselor submits a personalized LOR for each student. Additionally, the majority of applications require one or two teacher recommendations, preferably from core subjects in grades 11 or 12. Student requests LOR from teacher; college counselor submits.

**Personal Statement:** Essay that anchors the application. Students answer the question, "How does the student define themselves, what matters to them, and why?" Speaks to community, background, and fit.

**School Profile:** Document created and sent by EA that provides overview of school community, curriculum, and programs.

**Download:** [EA College Profile](#)

**Supplement Essays:** School-specific essays written by student. Prompts will be different for each school. Opportunity to show a college how much you know about their specific school and preparation for intended program.

**Transcript:** Under holistic admissions, the transcript is reviewed in its entirety. Special consideration for courses taken, grades earned, trends between disciplines and/or grades, and rigor. College Counselor submits.

**Rigor:** Perceived level of difficulty of a course, oftentimes equated to Honors, Advanced, or AP courses.

*rigor, transcript, and testing. We use national and historical EA trends to determine and help shape balanced lists and inform early strategies.*

## APPLICATION DECISIONS

**Admit:** Student is offered admission in first-year class.

**Conditional Admit:** Student is admitted with conditions determined by the university. This could be an altered start term (summer or winter start), alternative campus, or a guarantee transfer pathway.

**Deferral:** Student who applied in an early round, is not admitted, and rolled into the RD pool. The student will receive final decision in late March or early April.

**Deny:** Student is not offered admission in first-year class.

**Waitlist:** Student applied RD and was not admitted. The student must confirm intent to stay on waitlist. An institution will go to their waitlist to fill or "round out" their first-year class. Decisions of waitlist can start as early as April and end as late as July.

## FINANCIAL AID TERMS **Download:** [EA Financial Aid Guide](#)

**Cost of Attendance (COA):** Universities calculate COA through federal or institutional methodology for full-year, full-time attendance. Includes tuition, room and board, fees, books, supplies, and travel expenses.

**CSS Profile:** Application required by some schools to determine a student's eligibility for institutional aid. There is a cost to use this form, and it must be completed each year of college.

**FAFSA:** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Colleges use FAFSA data to determine federal aid eligibility. Many state schools and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own institutional aid. You must apply before each year of college.

**Need Aware:** Admission committee considers a student's financial situation when making decisions. This means that a student's ability to pay for college may be a factor in whether they are admitted.

**Need Blind:** Students will not be disadvantaged in the undergraduate admissions process due to their financial need.

**Net Price Calculator/MyIntuition:** Interactive and confidential online calculator that estimates eligibility for financial aid.

**Student Aid Index:** Eligibility index number calculated by FAFSA to determine federal, state, and institutional student aid.

## TERMS USED WHEN CREATING A BALANCED COLLEGE APPLICATION LIST

**Reach:** Any school that has an admit rate below 15%. Any school at which a student's profile is below middle 50% of students admitted.

**Target:** Any school at which a student's profile is within middle 50% of students admitted.

**Likely:** Any school at which a student's profile is above middle 50% of students admitted.

*\*Student Profile is determined by student's academic*

## SOFTWARE

**Admission Portal (College-Specific):** Once a student submits an application, institution creates admission/application portal for applicant. Portals display application material checklists, and, often, admission decisions. Only students have access to portals and should check regularly.

**College Kickstart:** Assists counselors and students in creating a balanced college list using national and EA-specific application statistics and data.

**Maia Learning:** All school-based documents are submitted from Maia, which is linked to the Common App. Counselors, students, and parents/guardians have access. Maia organizes students' college lists and provides university search features. Users may view college rep visits and schedule counselor-student meetings.

**TESTING** Download: [EA Testing Guide](#)

**College Board:** The preparatory and monitoring agency for the SAT, PSAT, and AP tests. College Board also has a search engine for university research.

**Official Test Scores vs Self-Reporting:** Many colleges and universities now allow students to self-report their scores when applying for admission. Students report their scores on the Common App, the college's unique member page, or on the individual college application portal. If a student matriculates to the university, official test scores need to be sent. If a school does not allow self-reporting, the student must order test scores to be sent to the university through College Board or ACT. Allow two weeks for processing. **Note:** *When applicable, it is the student's responsibility to submit official test scores. There is a fee associated with this. Official scores can be requested before applications are submitted.*

**Test Optional:** School does not require standardized test scores as part of the application. Students may submit standardized test scores if they wish.

**Test Flexible:** School allows several options for submitting standardized tests (can include AP, SAT, ACT or other standardized/national exams)

**Test Free:** School does not consider standardized test scores for any applicant.

## OTHER USEFUL TERMS:

**Admission Officer (AO) /Territory Manager:** University employee responsible for evaluating applicants from a specific region. Admission officers change frequently. Their contact information, if shared, may often be found on admission office websites or on Maia Learning.

**Letter of Continued Interest:** Students deferred or waitlisted may submit a letter/essay to express their continued interest in the school (or intent to stay on the waitlist).

Download: [EA Letter of Continued Interest Guide](#)

**Fly-In Programs:** University-sponsored programs focused on culture, diversity, and/or targeted academic extracurricular interests for students to explore. Programs typically occur in spring of junior year or fall of senior year before students have submitted their college applications. Some institutions will provide funded fly-in programs for admitted students.

**Gap Year:** A period of time when a student takes a break between high school and college to focus on personal growth, travel, community service, or experiential learning.

## LEARN MORE!

Download grade-appropriate EA resource guides to learn more about the college application process, from the ins and outs of the Common App and playing sports in college to writing letters of continued interest and navigating financial aid.

EXPLORE

## REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!