Glossary of College/University/Admissions Terms

ACT	A college entrance examination, which measures aptitude and skill in 4 areas - English, Mathematics, Reading and Science – plus an optional writing test required by some colleges.
AP Test	**A**dvanced **P**lacement test taken by high school students usually at the end of their junior or senior year, after they have completed certain AP courses. Many colleges give advanced standing and/or credit for these College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) sponsored tests if students earn certain scores on them.
Associate Degree	Degree granted by a college for a program earned in 2 years.
Bachelor's Degree	The Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or any other bachelor's degree granted by a college or university for a program that typically requires 4 years of full-time study.
Certificate Program	A qualification earned from short-term specialty trainings that are offered in fields as varied as auto, culinary, or teaching English as a Second Language.
College Board	The organization responsible for the administration on and administering of the PSAT/SAT/SAT Subject Tests/AP exams. It also offers the PROFILE for financial aid applications.
College Night	Opportunity for juniors and their parents/guardians to hear important advice about colleges from several college admissions representatives.
Common App or Application	A universal application form widely accepted by participating colleges and universities. Each year the form is typically released in August.
Common App Supplements	Supplemental forms used by Common App schools that request further information not found in the Common App.
Community College	A 2-year public college offering 1-year Certificate programs, 2 year Associate Degrees, and transfer programs to public and private 4-year colleges.

Consortium	Several colleges and universities in one area often join together in a consortium, or cooperative association, which gives students the opportunity to use the libraries and/or take courses at all member institutions.
Counselor statement	A comprehensive picture of the student's academic and social contributions to the Mamaroneck HS community written by the student's school counselor.
CSS PROFILE	A financial aid form, different from the FAFSA, required by many colleges and universities that helps them award non-federal student aid funds. The form is available online and fees are charged to first register and then for each college you want the form sent to.
Distance Learning	Term given to describe online courses and degrees offered by many institutions.
Early Action	Under **EA** a student applies usually between early November and early December and will know within 4 to 6 weeks whether they are accepted, denied or deferred. If admitted early the student is not committed to enroll and may elect to apply to other colleges. The decision to attend does not have to be made until May 1st
Early Action Unrestricted	An admission policy that allows a student to apply to more than one college with "Early" plans at the same time.
Early Action Restricted	An admission policy that does not allow a student to apply to other colleges with "Early" plans at the same time.
Early Decision I and II	An early application option that demands a binding decision whereby if the student is accepted **ED** s/he must attend that college. Therefore a student can only apply to one college under **ED**. **ED I** deadlines are usually in November. **ED II** deadlines are usually in January.
Engineering or Technical College	An independent professional college that provides 4-year programs in the fields of engineering and physical sciences. They are often known as "Institutes of Technology" or "Polytechnic Institutes."
ELL services	**English Language Learner** services provided to students for whom English is not their first language.

Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)	When you apply for needs-based financial aid through the or **CSS PROFILE** a calculation is done to assess how much your family has the ability to contribute towards your student's education for one year. This is called the **EFC**.
Fee Waiver	Permits eligible students to submit college applications or test registration forms without the fee. A limited number of waivers are available to students who qualify and are obtained through their school counselors.
FAFSA	The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** form that all prospective U.S. college students who want financial aid must complete and submit to determine their eligibility. This application is FREE and is required by all colleges and universities, unlike the CSS PROFILE, which some colleges only require.
Gift Aid	Grants and scholarships are often called "gift aid" or "merit aid" because they are financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Grants and scholarships can come from the federal government (e.g., Pell Grants), the state government, your college, NNHS, or a private or nonprofit organization.
GPA	**G**rade **P**oint **A**verages(GPA) are calculated at Mamaroneck High School on a 0-100 scale. 65 is a passing grade, below 65 is a failing grade. We do not weight our GPA's or grades.
IEP	**I**ndividual **E**ducation **P**lan developed by Mamaroneck School District and the student's parents/guardians for a student who is eligible for Special Education services based on their learning profile.
Khan Academy	Khan Academy is an online resource that has partnered with the College Board to offer free practice tests, questions and instructional videos for the SAT.
Liberal Arts College	A 4-year institution which emphasizes a program of broad undergraduate education.
Mamaroneck Larchmont Student Aid Fund	**MLSAF-**Scholarships established through the generosity of

	the Larchmont Mamaroneck community. For eligibility MHS students must complete the SAF application form online at www.mlsaf.org from our financial aid advisor.
Matriculated	A matriculated student is one who has applied and been formally admitted to a degree-granting program at that institution.
NCAA	The **National Collegiate Athletic Association** is an athletic governing body to which approximately 1,200 colleges and universities belong. Each college chooses a general division I, II or III and is required to follow the policies regarding recruitment and scholarship awards that have been established for that division. Students must register with the NCAA if they intend to play Division II or I sports in college.
National Merit Scholarship	National academic competition for scholarship awards open to all eligible high school juniors taking the PSAT.
Naviance	A comprehensive web-based tool used by Mamaroneck High School for post-high school planning. This program contains data on colleges throughout the country and keeps track of recent MHS college applications, student statistics, and admissions decisions.
Need Aware/Need Sensitive	A family's ability to pay for college may be a factor in the college's admission decision process.
Need Blind	A family's ability to pay for college is not a factor in the college's admission decision process.
Open Admissions	An admissions policy whereby the college admits almost all applicants who have earned a high school diploma or a GED.
Pell Grant	The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain post-baccalaureate students to promote access to post-secondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating post-secondary institutions. Grant amounts are dependent on: the student's expected family contribution; the cost of attendance as determined by the institution; the

	student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. Pell grants do not have to be repaid.
Post-graduate Year	The "PG" year, as it is often called, is a full academic year of study generally pursued between graduation from high school and matriculation at a college or university.
PSAT	A practice test for the SAT, it contains fewer sections than the SAT, takes 2 hours. A high score on the PSAT in your junior year may make you eligible to participate in the National Merit Scholarship program.
Regular Decision	Allows a student to apply regular decision to more than one college by the college's regular deadline (typically early winter). Decisions tend to be received between March and April and the decision to attend does not usually need to be made by the student until May 1st.
ROTC	**Reserve Officer Training Corps** is a college-based military officer training program offered by more than a 1,000 colleges. Academic scholarships are offered in exchange for military service after graduation.
Rolling Admission	Application is reviewed when it is received and the college makes a decision on a rolling or on-going basis usually a few weeks after receipt. The decision to attend does not need to be made until May 1st.
SAT	The SAT is a college admissions test offered by the College Board, which comprises 3 sections: reading, math and optional writing.
Scattergram	Graphical representation of all of MHS applications to specific colleges and the admissions decisions for each of those colleges from past graduating classes. This data, which includes the SAT/ACT scores and GPAs of applicants (without names) allows students to have an understanding of how their statistics match up to previous MHS applicants who applied to the same colleges.
Score Choice	Offered as an option for the SAT and Subject Test, this gives the student the ability to choose which test sittings to send to a given college. Not all colleges allow Score Choice.

Super Scoring	Policy of some colleges to select the highest score for each section from across all the tests scores submitted (SAT or ACT) therefore encouraging submission of all tests taken.
Teacher Evaluations	Normally a college will require up to 2 Teacher Evaluations and 1 Counselor Statement. Teacher Evaluations are submitted through the Common App or college's application portal by the teacher. Students will ask teachers to write on their behalf several weeks before the due date.
TOEFL	**Test of English as a Foreign Language** is a test used to evaluate the English proficiency of those students whose first language is not English.
Trade School	Offering a qualification earned from short-term specialty trainings that are offered in fields as varied as auto, culinary, or teaching English as a Second Language.
Transcript	A list of final course grades and credits for all classes awarded for freshman, sophomore and junior classes as well as first and second semester during senior year.
Waitlist	A term used by many institutions to describe a process in which they may initially delay offering or denying admission and extend the possibility of admission into the future. College's offer admission to waitlist candidates if insufficient numbers of regularly admitted candidates accept their offers of admissions.
504 Accommodation Plan	A plan for an eligible student developed between Mamaroneck High School and the student's parents/guardians that documents the accommodations allowed for the student within the regular education classroom in order to access the curriculum.