COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY

**Academic Common Market:** cooperative agreement among fourteen southern states that waives out-of-state tuition to students wishing to pursue programs of study not available in their state

**Accreditation:** endorsement granted to colleges and universities that meet established standards formally approved by one of six regional accrediting boards

**Associate Degree:** degree awarded after completion of a two-year college program of study

**Bachelor's Degree:** degree awarded after completion of a four- or five-year college program of study

**Candidate Reply Date:** date by which most colleges require students to reply to offers of admission (often May 1)

**Common Application Form:** application form, accepted by approximately 100 colleges, designed to ease the workload of students and high school Student Services Department.

**Concurrent Enrollment:** a plan that allows students to take courses at nearby colleges while completing high school

**Deferred Admission:** Deferred admission is a plan which permits a student, once accepted, to postpone matriculation for one year in order to pursue other plans.

**Deferred Decision:** The college or university determines that more information is needed to make a final decision about a candidate’s application. Often the decision is delayed until seventh semester grades and/or new test scores are received.

**Early Action:** Early action is a plan that invites early application but does not require the student to attend if accepted. Application deadline is usually in early November through December. Preferred date may be in October. Students may apply to as many —EA‖ schools as they wish.

**Early Decision:** Early decision, a plan offered by a select number of colleges, allows a student to apply between October and mid-January (generally) for an early determination of admissibility. Strong academic students, who are sure where they want to go to college, may apply to their preferred school early. If accepted, the student is obligated to attend. The student may submit other applications during this period, but only one can be early decision. If accepted through the early decision program, the student must withdraw all other applications.

**4-1-4:** a modified semester system that provides a January or winter term of approximately four weeks for special projects that usually earn the same credit as a one-semester course

**Internship:** program of supervised work experience related to a student's field of interest, which is performed with or without pay. Generally the student receives degree credit

**National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA):** the association of member colleges that makes rules governing eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid for student athletes
**Open Admissions:** a college admissions policy that grants acceptance to all high school graduates without regard to additional qualifications

**Private College:** an academic institution financed primarily by tuition and endowments.

**Public College:** an academic institution financed primarily by tuition, endowments, and state or local taxes. Tuition for in-state students is reduced and programs and policies are state-regulated

**Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC):** two, three, or four-year college based military training program leading to an officer commission upon graduation

**Retention Rate:** the percentage of college freshmen that return for the following fall term.

**Rolling Admissions:** The College will notify the applicant as soon as the application has been processed (usually four to six weeks) and the file is complete. It is to the student’s advantage to apply early. (A complete file may include seventh semester grades.)

**Semester System:** Academic school calendar where the academic year is divided into two parts.

**Terminal Program:** program preparing students for immediate employment following a course of study. It is available in many two-year colleges and vocational schools and results in an associate degree or certificate of completion

**Transfer Program:** a two-year program that results in an associate degree and is designed for students who intend to continue their studies at a four year college

**Trimester Program:** division of the academic year into three units. It is sometimes called the quarter system

**Waitlist:** A list maintained by selective schools containing names of students predicted to succeed at the institution but not accepted until those accepted outright decide whether or not they will attend. If space remains available, the school contacts students "waitlisted" generally between May 1 and August 1.