



GLOSSARY



529 Plans

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to encourage saving for future education costs. 529 plans, legally known as “qualified tuition plans”. There are two types of 529 plans: prepaid tuition plans and education savings plans. All fifty states and the District of Columbia sponsor at least one type of 529 plan. In addition, a group of private colleges and universities sponsor a prepaid tuition plan.

[SEC.gov | An Introduction to 529 Plans](#)

ABET Accreditation

ABET is a non-government organization whose accreditation provides assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards of the profession for which that program prepares graduates. ABET accredits education programs in natural sciences, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

[Accreditation | ABET](#)

Academic Calendar

Calendar published by a specific college with critical deadlines and dates throughout their year.

Academic Standing

A standing determined by the institution that depends on student GPA. Scholarships, enrollment, sports and ability to qualify for certain benefits may all be affected by academic standing.

Add/Drop Period

A grace period at the beginning of each semester during which students can decide to add or drop a course with no penalty and still receive a financial aid refund.

[What is the Add/Drop Period? \(Complete Student Guide\) – OutScholar](#)

Academic Advisor

College staff who mentors students and guides them through their program of study, making sure they are taking the right courses and helping students make important academic decisions. Students should see their academic advisor at least once a semester. Every first-year student is assigned an advisor.

When a student declares a major, they receive a new advisor in that department.

[What to Ask Your Academic Advisor | BestColleges](#)

Sponsored by



**EQUIPANDO
PADRES**
SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S SUCCESS



Academic Probation

A status colleges give to students who are struggling to pass courses. Academic probation is used to warn students that they need to improve their performance. Students on academic probation may lose scholarships or become ineligible for university sports. Students should work with an academic advisor to develop a plan before during and after academic probation.

[Academic Probation in College - CollegiateParent](#)

ACT

A standardized test taken in high school that college admission offices use to help decide whether to offer admission to an applicant. The ACT is typically taken in the spring of high school junior year and/or fall of senior year. First-generation students with free or reduced lunch may qualify to waive the fee for the ACT test.

[ACT College and Career Planning | Students and Parents | ACT](#)

Admissions Office

College admissions offices handle all parts of the admissions process. Parents and students may request support regarding applications, transferring, deadlines, and contact the office to plan a school visit. Whether a student is admitted to the college is also part of the role of the admissions office.

[College Admissions for Parents: What To Know \(collegeadvisor.com\)](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act

Civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. Students with disabilities may seek accommodations, have medical information instructors may need to be aware of, or require accessibility accommodations that the school is required by law to provide.

[Postsecondary Institutions and Students With Disabilities | ADA National Network \(adata.org\)](#)

AP Course

An Advanced Placement (AP) course is a class students can take in high school that could earn them credit toward their college degree. AP classes are typically more rigorous than regular classes. Classes culminate in AP exams in the spring. Transferred credits depend on how students score on tests.

[AP at a Glance – AP Central | College Board](#)

Articulation Agreements/Pathways/Bridge Programs

Community colleges and universities have affiliations called articulation agreements and/or degree pathways where there is an existing relationship between the community college and university. This ensures the courses transfer and students meet the prerequisite. Parents can generally find information about these agreements on the community college's website.

[What is an Articulation Agreement and Why Should You Care? \(communitycollegereview.com\)](#)



Associate's Degree

A degree that can be earned in 2–3 years, typically from online or community colleges. The credits earned from this degree can usually be transferred to a 4-year bachelor's degree. Many states have (or are developing) direct pipelines to support the transfer of credits from community colleges to 4-year state schools. Students seeking engineering degrees may begin their path in a community college and then transfer to complete a four-year degree. An associate degree is not necessary to complete a bachelor of engineering.

[What Is an Associate Degree? Requirements, Costs, and More | Coursera](#)

Bachelor's Degree

A 4-year degree, usually in the form of either a Bachelor of Arts (in a liberal arts program) or Bachelor of Science (in an applied learning program such as engineering).

[What Is a Bachelor's Degree? Requirements, Costs, and More | Coursera](#)

Campus Visit

During a campus visit, students and family members can listen to a presentation by staff from the admission office and go on a tour with a student guide to see campus buildings and facilities. It's a chance to ask a lot of questions and get a feeling for the school's culture.

[14 Tips for an Effective College Visit \(usnews.com\)](#)

Caregiver

An individual, including a relative (grandma, sister, uncle, etc.), neighbor, or family friend, who regularly or frequently provides care for a child for whom the individual is not the parent.

Career Services

Most colleges and universities have a career services department where students can get career planning advice. Services include career aptitude tests, resume and cover letter review, mock interviews, and help finding internships and supporting job hunts before and after graduation.

[5 Reasons Why Career Services Is The Most Important Office On Campus \(forbes.com\)](#)

Certificate

An academic program shorter than a degree, that more immediately allows students to advance in the career field. Such programs can also be completed post college graduation as supplemental professional development.

[21 Engineering Certifications To Consider Pursuing | Indeed.com](#)

Co-ed

Refers to any program, dormitory, or activity that includes all genders. This term is typically used to describe residence halls that are inclusive with all gender students living on the same floor.



College Fair

Where high school students can go to meet with representatives from different colleges and learn about what each school has to offer. College fairs are typically held at high schools, community facilities, and conference centers, and are usually in the spring.

[Navigating the Spring College Fair - CollegiateParent](#)

Common Application

The Common App allows high school seniors to apply to multiple colleges and universities with one online application. It helps gather all supporting materials including essays. There is a fee to submit to each college that can be waived for low-income students.

[College planning resources for families \(commonapp.org\)](#)

Community College

Community colleges are usually public institutions that focus on providing accessible, flexible courses. Although some CCs have dorms, most CC students commute from home and many are working full or part-time. Students can take one-off courses or pursue 2-year associate's degrees or professional certifications. Often, credits from a community college can be transferred to a 4-year university. Some community colleges now offer 4-year degrees.

Many first-generation students attend community college because of lower costs, smaller class sizes, and simple application processes. Some community colleges will offer things like student activities and organizations, residence halls, and competitive sports teams, while others may lack some or all of these features.

Co-op

Co-op is an educational program which allows engineering students to alternate periods of academic study with full-time periods of paid work experience related to their academic and professional goals.

Core Requirements

Within a degree program, core requirements refer to the classes that students must pass in order to graduate. Electives typically complement core classes.

Course

A course is a college class. These usually account for 2-4 credits of study, and students must take and pass a set number of courses to graduate.



Credit Hour

Each course is assigned a certain number of credit hours, usually corresponding to how often class occurs and how long classes are, as well as the course difficulty. The minimum amount of credit hours required for an engineering degree may vary, always consult with an academic advisor.

College Town

Towns known for the presence of a college or university that serves as a social, economic, and population hub. College towns may offer an intimate sense of community, accessibility, and range of activities available.

[What is a College Town? \(Here's What You Need to Know\) – OutScholar](#)

Curriculum

The subjects, classes, or learning objectives that make up a course of study in a school or college.

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals provides certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines the consideration of deferred action for a period of 2 years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible to request work authorization. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.

[Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) | USCIS](#)

Dean

A dean is the head of a particular academic or administrative department at a college or university, for example, Dean of Admissions, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Student Affairs, etc.

Dean's List

A regularly issued list of students who have achieved high academic excellence. Qualification for the Dean's List varies from school to school.

Deferral

When colleges deny your early admission application but move you to the regular admissions cycle, this is known as a deferral.

[Guide to College Waitlists and Deferrals | BestColleges](#)

Degree

A degree is the final result of a college education. It's awarded when a student earns a certain number of qualifying credit hours. Examples of degrees include Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Master of Business Administration, a PhD, Associate's, and more.



Degree Audit

A system used to automatically check a student's progress towards a program of study. Students can go their university student portal and run a degree audit for their course of study to see a detailed breakdown of how far along they are towards earning their degree. This data can also be used to plan future semesters within the course of study, although it's always wise to see an advisor first.

Dining Hall

The dining hall is a meal planning option students may opt into on campus. For a fee and even sometimes offering packages, universities cater to diverse dietary needs and offer an array of traditional, vegetarian, and vegan offerings.

[The Student's Guide to Nutrition - Best Colleges](#)

Disability Services

A resource at the college that helps students if they have any kind of disability (including ADHD, anxiety, etc.). They will work with students to create a Letter of Accommodations that grant them special accommodations for the classroom and for testing.

[How to Access College Disability Services & Accommodations | BestColleges](#)

Distance Learning

This term refers to classes taken remotely, away from the college which offers the classes. These include online classes.

Division I

Division 1 schools are the top colleges for competitive student sports. They offer scholarships to student-athletes who meet their eligibility requirements. High school students involved in sports may be considering or even being recruited by D1 universities prior to their high school graduation.

[Division 1 Colleges by State | List of D1 Colleges \(ncsasports.org\)](#)

Direct PLUS Loan

A loan that does not require financial need, they are available for parents who are borrowing money to pay for their child's education.

[PLUS Loans | Federal Student Aid](#)

Dormitory

A dorm or residence hall is an on-campus student living facility. At some schools, only first-year students are required to live on campus, but at many colleges students live in dorms all four years.

[What are the Types of Campus Housing in College? – UW-Green Bay Admissions Blog \(uwgb.edu\)](#)



Double Major

Students who pursue a double major earn two majors and one degree (e.g., a bachelor of science) when they graduate.

[Dual Degree vs. Double Major: What's the Difference? | BestColleges](#)

DREAMER

“DREAMer” has been used to describe young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, who have lived and gone to school here, and who in many cases identify as American.

[What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers? \(adl.org\)](#)

Drop

When a student leaves a course during the Add/Drop grace period, it's referred to as dropping. There is no penalty for dropping a course during the grace period. Students may decide to drop because they are overwhelmed by their course load or want to take a different class. This is different than withdrawing, which comes after the add/drop period is over.

Drop Dates

There are set periods in the beginning of a semester in which students can drop a course without academic penalty. There are specific dates set in place by financial aid in which students must drop their course by if they wish to receive a full refund, 75% refund, or 50% refund. If they drop a course past these drop dates, they will not receive a financial aid refund.

Early Action

Early action is a nonbinding process that allows learners to gain early admission to a school, well before those applying through the regular admissions process.

[Early Action vs. Early Decision | BestColleges](#)

Early Decision

Unlike early action, early decision is a binding agreement that states if a student receives admittance to a particular college, they are obligated to attend.

[Early Action vs. Early Decision | BestColleges](#)

Electives

Most bachelor's degrees require a student to complete a combination of specific courses and electives. Electives are courses students get to choose from a list of offerings that fulfill general education requirements.

[How to Choose Electives in College | BestColleges](#)



Engineering

To engineer literally means 'to make things happen'. Most of what engineers do on a daily basis can fall into four categories: communicating, problem solving, analyzing, and planning. Depending on an engineer's industry and role, their day will typically consist of a various mix of these functions.

[What is Engineering?: Crash Course Engineering #1](#)

Faculty

"Faculty" is the term for academic staff at an institution of education. In primary and secondary schools, the faculty are teachers, whereas in postsecondary institutions, professors comprise the faculty. Faculty can also include researchers, scholars and lecturers, depending on the school or university.

FAFSA

FAFSA® is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students need to complete the FAFSA in order to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA is free and easier than ever, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career school.

<https://studentaid.gov/help/fafsa>

FERPA

Stands for Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This act gives college students the right of privacy over their school records, even if they're under 18. If students want to give a parent or another third party access, they may complete a FERPA waiver. There is an exception: If the college feels there is a need to protect the health and safety of the student or others, they may disclose information. There is an exception for health and safety information: If a college feels it would be important to share that sort of information with parents or guardians, they are allowed to.

[FERPA, HIPAA and Important Family Decisions - CollegiateParent](#)

Finals

Exams at the end of a semester that tests knowledge on everything covered in a course. Finals are usually weighted more heavily than other exams and coursework. Sometimes instead of an exam, the final will be a paper or big project.

Financial Advisor

College staff that advise students and parents on the financial aid application process and offer information about aid programs suitable for them. Based on what the applicant may qualify for, they show students repayment plans and walk them through how to plan for expenses.



Financial Aid

Refers to any type of student loan, scholarship, or grant a student receives to help pay for college. Incoming first-year students receive a financial aid award along with their offer of admission. Work-Study is another form of financial aid. Financial aid can be need-based (based on student and family income and what the family can afford to contribute) or merit-based (based on a student's GPA, test scores, etc.).

[Types of Financial Aid](#) | [Federal Student Aid](#)

Financial Need

This is determined by the difference between the cost of college and the student's ability to pay for it. Typically, this considers the ability of the student's parents to help pay for school, as well.

[How Aid Is Calculated](#) | [Federal Student Aid](#)

First Generation College Student

First-generation refers to students who are the first in their families to attend college or whose parents didn't complete a college degree. Many schools have special offices or programs to provide guidance to first-generation students.

[Are You A First-generation Student? \(naspa.org\)](#)

Fly In Programs

Fly-in programs cover airline costs, hotel discounts, or free meals in the dining hall to provide students with college visits. They frequently depend on financial need, diversity, talent, or academic performance.

[Fly-In Programs and Diversity Visit Experiences](#) | [Coalition for College \(coalitionforcollegeaccess.org\)](#)

Former Foster

A student who was formerly in foster care and is now seeking college or university education may be granted various supports for housing and academic costs, depending on their state of residence.

[Federal Programs](#) | [Youth.gov](#)

[Foster Youth Students - California Student Aid Commission](#)

Fraternity

A social organization for college. Many fraternities operate their own houses where members live and host events.

[What Is Greek Life? Your Guide to Sororities and Fraternities \(collegerank.net\)](#)



Freshman

In high school, a 9th grade or first year student. In college, an incoming first year student. Depending on transfer credits earned in high school or community college, some first-year students may receive a sophomore designation upon starting university.

Full-Time College Student

Typically, a student enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

General Education Requirements

Most programs come with a set of general education requirements, intended to ensure all students receive a broad education, with knowledge of topics outside of their chosen field of study.

GPA

Grade point average. This reflects student academic achievement at school. The GPA is updated after each semester's grades are finalized and reported.

[Calculating GPA in College — What Students Need to Know - CollegiateParent](#)

Grant

Financial aid that does not need to be paid back. The most common grant is the Pell Grant; filing out the FAFSA will determine student eligibility for the Pell Grant (free money).

[Types of Financial Aid | Federal Student Aid](#)

Hispanic Serving Institutions/HSIs

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is defined as an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution; and has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.

[Hispanic-Serving Institutions \(HSIs\) | White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics](#)

HIPPA Release Form

The Health Information Portability and Accountability Act gives students a right over the privacy of their medical records when they turn 18. A HIPAA Release Form gives parents the ability to access their medical records and make important medical decisions for them in the case of an illness or emergency.

[FERPA, HIPAA and Important Family Decisions - CollegiateParent](#)



Independent Study

A type of non-traditional course that allows students to work outside of the classroom. The student develops the topic they wish to pursue and must have it approved by one or more academic departments. They'll be assigned a faculty supervisor, but will direct their own learning goals and outcomes.

In-State Student

A status conferred on students who live (or have established residency) in the same state as the college or university they attend. At public universities, in-state students pay much less in tuition than non-resident students.

Internship

An internship is a short-term job, usually for the summer or a semester, that a student takes to get experience in their field of interest. Internships may be paid or unpaid; sometimes students can earn course credit for them. In some academic programs, an internship may be required to graduate.

[How Can an Internship Help Your Student? - CollegiateParent](#)

Lab

A type of class that typically accompanies a lecture, for engineering students, labs are a way to apply their learning.

[Laboratory Classes \(illinois.edu\)](#)

Lecture

A type of class that does not include a lab.

Letter of Recommendation

A letter written by a high school teacher, college professor, employer, or mentor, that explains to a stakeholder, college admissions department or scholarship review team why a student would be a good fit for their school, scholarship, co-op, or internship.

Living Learning Communities

University dormitory offerings dedicated to students with similar majors living together. They provide a community beyond the classroom and support.

[Living-Learning Communities: What to Know | Education | U.S. News \(usnews.com\)](#)



Major

The primary focus of study in a degree. For example, a student might major in chemical, industrial, or aerospace engineering. Some students start college with a declared major and others choose a major after a year or so of academic exploration.

Meal Plan

The meal plan dictates how many meals a student can eat at on-campus dining facilities. Most students living in campus housing will have a meal plan, but off-campus students can often purchase a full or partial plan. Some meal plans include funds that can be used as cash at campus restaurants or snack shops.

[Eating Right on a Campus Meal Plan — 6 Tips to Share - CollegiateParent](#)

Midterms

Exams that occur in the middle of a semester. Midterms test a student's grasp of topics covered in a course up to that point. Midterms are typically weighted more heavily than other tests and coursework, but not as heavily as finals.

Minor

A secondary focus of study, typically earned in tandem with a major. A student, for example, might graduate with a major in biology and a minor in psychology. It takes fewer course credits to complete a minor, and the minor might complement the major area of study or be something a student pursues just because they love the subject.

Nonresident

Status applied to students who don't live in the same state as the university they're attending. At public institutions, nonresident, out-of-state students usually pay much higher tuition than in-state students.

Off-Campus Living

Off-campus living refers to any housing arrangement not facilitated by the college. It could be in a rented house, apartment, or at home. Some schools only guarantee or require on-campus housing for first-year students.

Office Hours

The hours during which staff or faculty is available. If a student needs help in one of their classes, they should visit with the professor or teaching assistant during their office hours. Office hours are typically available on the class syllabus.

[Using Office Hours Effectively – Learning Center \(unc.edu\)](#)



Orientation

Incoming first-year college students are usually required to take part in orientation, either on campus or virtually. Orientation programs may be offered over the summer or may take place during welcome week and move-in. During orientation, students learn about campus resources, the student code of conduct, and may meet with their academic advisor to select fall classes.

Part-Time College Student

A college student enrolled in less than 12 credit hours.

Parent

Each family is different, our community is diverse and our families represent that. A parent could be the students' mother(s) or father(s). This program is not limited to parents (biological or adoptive), but it is open to family members, caregivers, or guardians that are committed to actively engage in empowering their students to be successful in engineering education.

Pass/Fail Course

A class in which no grade is given; a student simply passes or fails. A pass has no impact on GPA but a failing grade is calculated as a 0.0. Colleges limit how many (if any) classes a student can take pass/fail, and typically students may not opt for pass/fail in required general education or major classes.

[What Are Pass/Fail Classes? - Campus Explorer](#)

Plagiarism

Copying some or all of someone else's work and claiming it as your own. Plagiarism is taken seriously in college and could result in an F, academic probation or expulsion.

[What Is Considered Plagiarism And How to Avoid It \(snhu.edu\)](#)

Pre-Requisite

Many college classes must be taken sequentially — in a certain order, from lower to higher level. A prerequisite is a course a student must complete before taking another specific course. For example, Calculus 1 is a prerequisite to Calculus 2 — a student can't take the latter without having passed the former.

PSAT

Stands for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. It's a pre-SAT, which serves to give high school students a chance to practice for the real deal. It's typically taken sophomore or junior year of high school.

[The PSAT/NMSQT – SAT Suite | College Board4](#)



Public College/University

These are funded mainly by the state government, allowing them to charge lower tuition fees to students. In-state residents receive favorable tuition rates at public universities.

Private College/University

These are supported by their own funding and student tuition fees and are generally more expensive compared to public colleges. Private colleges tend to rely more on student tuition payments to cover their operating expenses. However, they may offer more tuition discounts, grants, and scholarships. Their financial aid packages can sometimes make them more affordable than public universities.

Research Institution

A college or university focused on research. At research universities, students collaborate with professors and may even be paid to conduct research in their field of study.

Resident Assistant (RA)

An older student, usually a sophomore or junior, who lives in a section or floor of a dormitory and oversees student relations. RAs are often expected to be mentors and advisors, and they also organize events and activities for dorm residents.

Registration

The act of signing up for classes.

Registration Period

The period in which a student can sign up for the classes they wish to take in a semester.

Rolling Admissions

Schools with rolling admissions evaluate applications as they receive them. Most community colleges offer rolling admissions. These colleges release admission decisions on an ongoing basis. These schools will continue accepting students until all spots in the incoming class are filled.

Roommate

Most dorm rooms and suites are shared by two or more students. Roommates are the other people your student will live with in the residence hall. Some colleges assign roommates to first-year students and others let incoming first-years choose their own roommates. After the first year, students choose their own roommates or may opt to live alone on or off campus.



SAT

The Scholastic Aptitude Test, known as the SAT, is used by many colleges to determine a prospective student's ability to succeed academically at the school. Like the ACT, the SAT is usually taken in the spring semester of the junior year of high school, and can be retaken in the fall of the senior year.

[SAT Suite Benefits: For Students & Parents | College Board](#)

Scholarships

A financial award to help a student pay for college. Scholarships can come from the institution (the college or university) or from outside groups and organizations. Unlike student loans, this is gift money that does not need to be paid back.

[Types of Financial Aid | Federal Student Aid](#)

Semester

Typically, a half year of college or 15 weeks (about 3 and a half months). There is a fall semester and a spring semester (and a shorter, less utilized summer semester). Some universities have mini-mesters or work on a different semester schedule.

Shared Interest Communities

University housing dedicated to special interest students, including women, rainbow (LGBTQIA+), and first-gen floors.

SHPE

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers is a national association supporting Latinos in STEM. SHPE offers training, mentorship, scholarships, and programming to K-12 students, STEM university students, and STEM professionals guided by values of familia, service, education, and resilience.

Sorority

A social organization for college women. Some sororities operate their own houses where members live and host events.

[What Is Greek Life? Your Guide to Sororities and Fraternities \(collegerank.net\)](#)

Student Essay

A personal essay submitted as part of a college application. The Common Application gives seven different essay prompts for students to choose from. In addition, many schools require supplemental essays that may ask the student to say why they feel they will thrive at the school and what they will contribute to the community.



STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is used to refer to classes, programs, or fields in these areas.

Study Abroad

Most colleges and universities run programs that give students a chance to live and take classes in another country for a quarter, semester or year.

Student Center

A building or collection of buildings providing programming and services for students, alumni, and staff. Some services may include health & wellness, lounges, dining, vendors and entertainment.

Subsidized Loan

Financial aid that must be paid back. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest while students are in school at least half-time, this makes them preferable to unsubsidized loans.

Syllabus

The master document for any class. A general summary of a course handed out to students at the beginning of the term (and available electronically). The syllabus includes required textbooks and other study materials along with dates of assignments, papers and exams. The professor's contact information and office hours will also be listed. Reading and following the syllabus is a key success tool for college students!

Teaching Assistant (TA)

Many large classes employ teaching assistants to help the professor. A TA may lead a small discussion section, help with labs in science courses, run study sessions and hold their own office hours.

Teaching Institution

Colleges or universities that emphasize student instruction, support, and success. They tend to focus less on research and instead opt to focus on the nurture and training of students. They may offer smaller class sizes, more accessible instructors, and more practical support.

Test-Optional Admission

When applying to a college or university with test-optional admissions, applicants don't have to submit an SAT or ACT score. If they want to submit a score, the admission committee will consider it, but not submitting a score won't count against them.



Title IX

Law protecting people from discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities. This includes conduct such as: gender discrimination (includes males, females, transgender, gender identity, etc.), sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, intimate partner/relationship violence, bullying and cyberbullying, retaliation, the failure to provide equal opportunity in athletics and discrimination based on pregnancy.

[What Is Title IX and Why Does It Matter? | BestColleges](#)

Transcript

A transcript is an overview of a student's academic progress — it usually includes their GPA and total credit hours and shows every class they've completed or withdrawn from (it excludes classes dropped by the drop date).

Transfer Credits

Credits that can be transferred from one school and applied toward a degree at another. This includes credits from high school (dual credit programs, AP courses) or credits from one university to another.

Tuition

The sum of money charged for teaching or instruction by a college. Tuition is the cost of enrolling in classes, tuition does not include textbooks, course materials, travel or housing costs.

Undergraduate

An undergraduate is any student pursuing a 4-year bachelor's degree.

Unsubsidized Loan

Financial aid that must be paid back. Unsubsidized loans accrue interest while students are in school, making them undesirable compared to grants and subsidized loans.

Virtual Tour

When you can't do a campus visit, a virtual tour is often an option. This is a tour hosted online, either through an interactive website or as part of a live video stream presented by the university.

Wait List

A list of applicants who have not been offered admission to a university, but could still be in the coming months. Being offered a spot on a wait list is a way for a school to tell a student that they meet admission requirements and will be invited to join the first-year class if space permits. Many schools only admit a small percentage of waitlisted students.



Wellness Center

A campus resource that may offer a variety of healthcare including wellness outreach, health education, and counseling and psychological services.

Withdraw

If a student leaves a course after the add/drop period is over, it is called a withdraw. While withdrawal does not affect a student's GPA, it is shown on their transcript as a "W". Some universities have a limit to the courses that can be withdrawn within a student's academic career.

Work Study Program

A federal program which provides colleges with funding to hire students for paid part-time jobs.

[Understanding the Federal Work-Study Program - CollegiateParent](#)

Future Terms – Coming Soon!

- Trimester/Quarters
- Have terms you want us to research and add to this list? Email padres@shpe.org



GLOSSARY RESOURCES

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, "Accreditation" abet.org, 2022.

[Accreditation | ABET](#)

ACT College and Career Readiness Solutions. "Students and Parents". Act.org, 2022.

[ACT College and Career Planning | Students and Parents | ACT](#)

ADA National Network. "Postsecondary Institutions and Students with Disabilities". Adata.org, 2017

[Postsecondary Institutions and Students With Disabilities | ADA National Network \(adata.org\)](#)

Baldwin, Amy. "Calculating GPA in College- What Students Need to Know". CollegiateParent.com, 2021.

[Calculating GPA in College — What Students Need to Know - CollegiateParent](#)

Barrington, Kate. "What is an Articulation Agreement and Why Should You Care?".

Communitycollegereview.com, 2022

[What is an Articulation Agreement and Why Should You Care? \(communitycollegereview.com\)](#)

Bearfield, Caiden. "Higher Ed Encyclopedia." The Scholar Network. The Scholar Network, 2021.

Best Colleges. "The Ultimate College Terminology Guide." Bestcolleges.com, 2022.

[The Ultimate College Terminology Guide | BestColleges](#)

Campion, Alexandra. "What are the Types of Campus Housing in College?". University of Wisconsin Green Bay. Blog.uwgb.edu, 2023

[What are the Types of Campus Housing in College? – UW-Green Bay Admissions Blog \(uwgb.edu\)](#)

Campus Explorer. "What Are Pass/Fail Classes?". Campus Explorer, 2021.

[What Are Pass/Fail Classes? - Campus Explorer](#)

Carlton, Genevieve. Best Colleges, "What is Title IX and Why Does It Matter?". Bestcolleges.com, 2022.

[What Is Title IX and Why Does It Matter? | BestColleges](#)

Carmody, Austin. "What is the Add/Drop Period? (Complete Student Guide)". OutScholar.com, 2023.

[What is the Add/Drop Period? \(Complete Student Guide\) – OutScholar](#)

Carmony, Austin. "What is a College Town? (Here's What You Need to Know)". OutScholar.com, 2023

[What is a College Town? \(Here's What You Need to Know\) – OutScholar](#)

Central Oregon Community College, "2022-2023 Advising Syllabus". Cocc.edu, 2023.

[advising_syllabus_2022_2023_digital.pdf \(cocc.edu\)](#)



Center for First Gen Student Success. "Are You a First-Generation Student?". [Firstgen.naspa.org](https://firstgen.naspa.org), 2023
[Are You A First-generation Student? \(naspa.org\)](https://naspa.org)

Chiaravelotti, Anthony. "The Best Questions to Ask Your Academic Advisor". [Bestcolleges.com](https://bestcolleges.com), 2022.
[What to Ask Your Academic Advisor | BestColleges](https://bestcolleges.com)

Coalition for College. "Fly-In Programs + Diversity Visit Experiences". [Coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org), 2023
[Fly-In Programs and Diversity Visit Experiences | Coalition for College \(coalitionforcollegeaccess.org\)](https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)

Collegeboard. "AP At a Glance". [Apcentral.collegeboard.org](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org), 2023.
[AP at a Glance – AP Central | College Board](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org)

Collegeboard, SAT Suite. "SAT Suite Benefits: For Students + Parents". [Satsuite.collegeboard.org](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org), 2021.
[SAT Suite Benefits: For Students & Parents | College Board](https://satsuite.collegeboard.org)

College Ranking. "What is Greek Life? Your Guide to Sororities and Fraternities". [Collegerank.net](https://collegerank.net), 2022.
[What Is Greek Life? Your Guide to Sororities and Fraternities \(collegerank.net\)](https://collegerank.net)

Collegiate Parent. "College Terms You Need to Know: A Complete Guide". [Collegiateparent.com](https://collegiateparent.com), 2022.
[College Terms You Need to Know: A Complete Guide - CollegiateParent](https://collegiateparent.com)

Common App. "Family Resources". [Commonapp.org](https://commonapp.org), 2021
[College planning resources for families \(commonapp.org\)](https://commonapp.org)

Coursera. "What is an Associate Degree? Requirements, Cost, and More". [Coursera.org](https://coursera.org), 2022.
[What Is an Associate Degree? Requirements, Costs, and More | Coursera](https://coursera.org)

Coursera. "What is Bachelor's Degree? Requirements, Cost, and More". [Coursera.org](https://coursera.org), 2022.
[What Is a Bachelor's Degree? Requirements, Costs, and More | Coursera](https://coursera.org)

Crash Course. "What is Engineering?: Crash Course Engineering #1 " youtube.com, 2019.
[What is Engineering?: Crash Course Engineering #1 - YouTube](https://youtube.com)

Epps, Tyler. "The Student's Guide to Nutrition". [Bestcolleges.com](https://bestcolleges.com), 2022.
[The Student's Guide to Nutrition - Best Colleges](https://bestcolleges.com)

Grant, Bernard. "How to Access College Disability Services and Accommodations". [Bestcolleges.com](https://bestcolleges.com), 2022.
[How to Access College Disability Services & Accommodations | BestColleges](https://bestcolleges.com)

Gobel, Reyna. "5 Reasons Why Career Services is the Most Important Office on Campus". [Forbes.com](https://forbes.com), 2014
[5 Reasons Why Career Services Is The Most Important Office On Campus \(forbes.com\)](https://forbes.com)



Gottlieb Boxer, Cheryl. "Navigating the Spring College Fair". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[Navigating the Spring College Fair - CollegiateParent](#)

Harveston, Kate. "Eating Right on Campus Meal Plan- 6 Tips to Share". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[Eating Right on a Campus Meal Plan — 6 Tips to Share - CollegiateParent](#)

Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs. "Homelessness and Runaway - Federal Programs". Youth.gov, 2022
[Federal Programs | Youth.gov](#)

Indeed Editorial Team. "21 Engineering Certifications to Consider Pursuing". Indeed.com, 2022.
[21 Engineering Certifications To Consider Pursuing | Indeed.com](#)

Le, Ianni. "How Can an Internship Help Your Student?". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[How Can an Internship Help Your Student? - CollegiateParent](#)

Lytle, Ryan & Moody, Josh. "14 Tips for an Effective College Visit". Usnews.com, 2021.
[14 Tips for an Effective College Visit \(usnews.com\)](#)

Miller, Danika & Muniz, Hannah. "The Student's Guide to College Waitlists and Deferrals". Bestcolleges.com, 2022.
[Guide to College Waitlists and Deferrals | BestColleges](#)

Miller, Danika. "How to Choose Electives in College". Bestcolleges.com, 2021
[How to Choose Electives in College | BestColleges](#)

National Collegiate Scouting Association. "Complete List of NCAA Division 1 Colleges". Ncsasports.org, 2023.
[Division 1 Colleges by State | List of D1 Colleges \(ncsasports.org\)](#)

Nelson, Vicki. "Academic Probation in College". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[Academic Probation in College - CollegiateParent](#)

Nelson, Vicki. "FERPA, HIPAA and Important Family Decisions". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[FERPA, HIPAA and Important Family Decisions - CollegiateParent](#)

Nelson, Vicki. "FERPA, HIPAA, and Important Family Decisions". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[FERPA, HIPAA and Important Family Decisions - CollegiateParent](#)

Ngo, Chinh. "Early Action vs Early Decision: How to Choose". Bestcolleges.com, 2022.
[Early Action vs. Early Decision | BestColleges](#)



Pagan, Arianna. "College Admissions for Parents: What to Know". Collegeadvisor.com, 2021.
[College Admissions for Parents: What To Know \(collegeadvisor.com\)](https://collegeadvisor.com)

Shaffer, Suzanne. "Understanding the Federal Work-Study Program". Collegiateparent.com, 2022.
[Understanding the Federal Work-Study Program - CollegiateParent](https://collegiateparent.com)

Tokar, Sofia. "What Is Considered Plagiarism And How to Avoid It". Snhu.edu, 2019.
[What Is Considered Plagiarism And How to Avoid It \(snhu.edu\)](https://snhu.edu)

The Anti-Defamation League. "What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers?". Adl.org, 2015
[What is the Dream Act and Who Are the Dreamers? \(adl.org\)](https://adl.org)

U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)". Iscis.gov, 2022
[Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) | USCIS](https://iscis.gov)

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Office. "Direct PLUS Loans are federal loans that graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay for college or career school". Studentaid.gov, 2023
[PLUS Loans | Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.gov)

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Office. "What is the FAFSA?". Studentaid.gov, 2023
[What is the FAFSA? | Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.gov)

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Office. "Types of Financial Aid". Studentaid.gov, 2023
[Types of Financial Aid | Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.gov)

U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid Office. "How Aid is Calculated". Studentaid.gov, 2023
[How Aid Is Calculated | Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.gov)

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, "An Introduction to 529 Plans". Sec.gov, 2022.
[SEC.gov | An Introduction to 529 Plans](https://sec.gov)

White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. "Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)". Sites.ed.gov, 2021.
[Hispanic-Serving Institutions \(HSIs\) | White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics](https://sites.ed.gov)

Wood, Sarah. "Living Learning Communities: What to Know". Usnews.com, 2022.
[Living-Learning Communities: What to Know | Education | U.S. News \(usnews.com\)](https://usnews.com)