

COLLEGE 101 DICTIONARY



A Collection of Commonly Used
College Terms



College 101 Dictionary

This dictionary was prepared by the CSU Channel Islands, Office of Admissions to provide prospective college students with a better understanding of commonly used terms when searching for and applying to colleges and applying for financial aid. The dictionary is organized into sections that make understanding these terms easier for every step of your journey.



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Take these last few tips and we'll see you in college!



THE BASICS

TYPES OF COLLEGES

When looking for a college, the ultimate goal is finding the right fit. Start by identifying the type of school you want to attend. There is no one type of school that fits everyone's needs and educational goals. Which of these types of schools sound like a good fit for you?



Public University

A 4-year institution that receives public funding from the government and usually offers many major and minor options. Tuition ranges for in-state and out-of-state students.



Private University

4-year institutions are supported by tuition, endowment, and donations and not operated by the government. They are typically more expensive than public colleges. Some are closely affiliated with religious organizations.



Community College

Generally a 2-year institution of higher education that anyone can attend and offers different levels of instruction adapted to fit the needs of the community. Degrees offered will range from Certificates to Associate Degrees.



Technical/Vocational School

A school that offers specialized training in a particular industry or career. Possible programs of study include the culinary arts, fire fighting, dental assistant and medical-records technology. These colleges usually offer certificates or associate degrees.



Arts and Performing Arts College

A school that provides training in areas such as photography, music, theater or fashion design. Most of these colleges offer associate or bachelor's degrees in the fine arts or a specialized field.



TYPES OF DEGREES

Deciding what degree you are hoping to receive will help narrow down the type of college that you will be searching for. Here are a list of possible degrees/certificates you can obtain in college.

A **Doctoral Degree** is the highest degree attainable. It qualifies the individual to teach at the university level in that particular field and/or to work in a specific profession. The duration of the program can be anywhere from four to ten years.

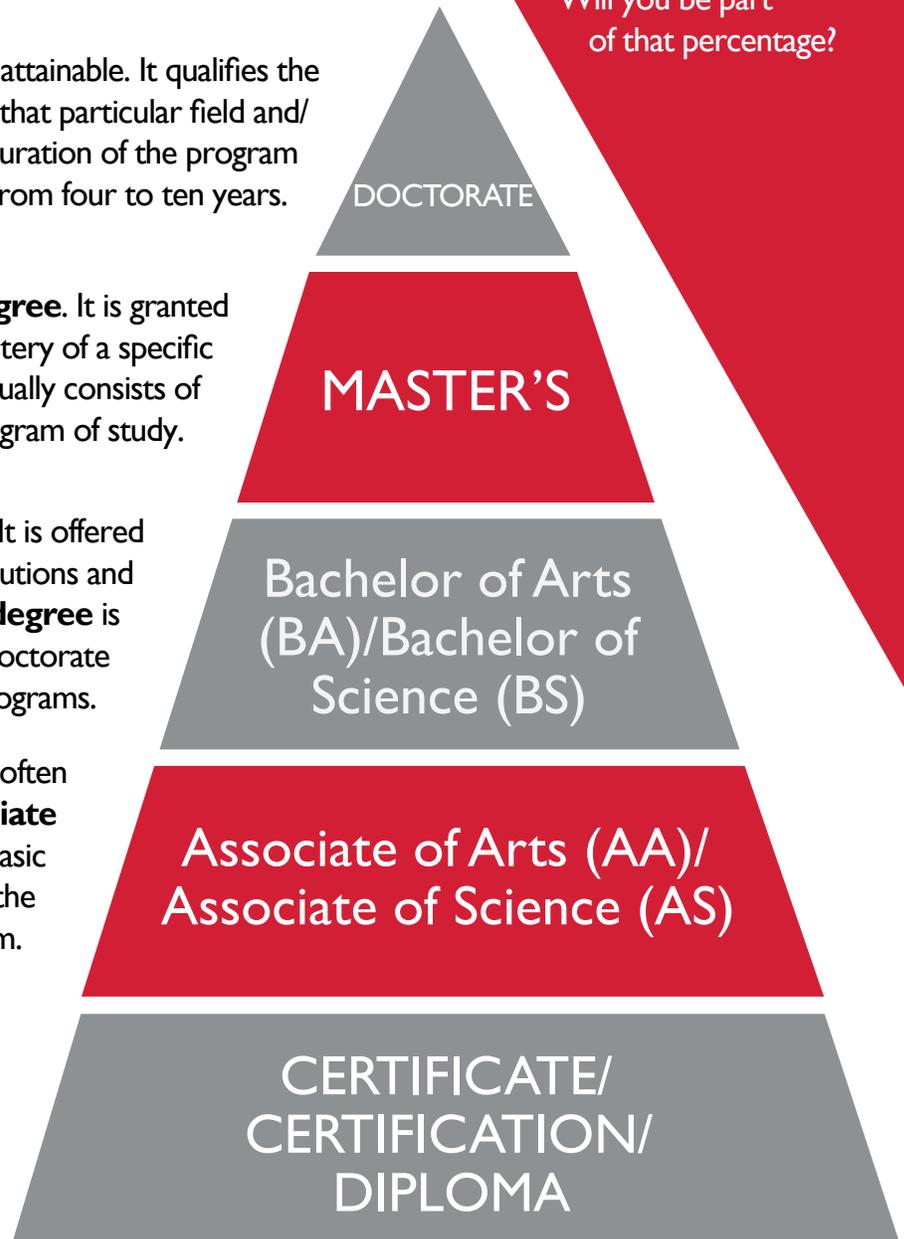
This is the standard **graduate-level degree**. It is granted to those who have demonstrated a mastery of a specific field of study or professional practice. It usually consists of a full-time 2-year program of study.

The standard 4-year college degree. It is offered in hundreds of subjects at 4-year institutions and numerous online schools. A **Bachelor's degree** is usually a prerequisite for all graduate and doctorate programs.

This is the basic 2-year college degree often awarded at community colleges. **Associate degrees** often involve a set of basic preparatory coursework, equivalent to the first two years of a Bachelor's program.

Often involves **certification** in a specific field (medical assistant, paralegal, technician, etc.). These tend to be relatively quick, between 6 weeks to a year. Most require a High School Diploma or GED.

According to the 2015 US Census Bureau, only 12% of Americans have obtained a Doctorate Degree. Will you be part of that percentage?





I wanted a larger school with a rich history and plenty of space on campus to roam around.



I was looking for a school that focused on being creative and offered majors in art.



Smaller class sizes were most important to me, but I didn't want to pay a lot of money for that.



WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Rank these factors by how important they are to you by numbering each on a scale from 1 - 6 (1 = most important)

- Areas of Study
- Campus Demographics
- Cost & Financial Aid
- Housing
- Location
- Sports & Extracurricular Activities

What other factors might you need to take into consideration?

COLLEGE SEARCH FACTORS

What's important to you when looking for colleges? There are different things that should factor into your search process that can give you some direction on how to start looking for schools. Below are some of many common college search factors.

Areas of Study

These are the programs or majors that a school offers. Many universities offer a variety of subjects to study while some colleges specialize in specific areas like art or nursing.

Campus Demographics

This describes the characteristics and makeup of the student body at a school including ethnicity, gender, age, religious affiliation, size of student body etc.

Cost & Financial Aid

The amount needed to pay for tuition and other expenses at a school, as well as the amount of scholarships, and loans they offer to cover those costs.

Housing

Where students live while attending school. Residence Halls and Student Apartments are examples of on campus options at different colleges.

Location

City, state, or country a school is located. This could also describe the type of environment in which a school is located in (i.e., urban, suburban, rural).

Sports & Extracurricular Activities

Many universities participate in NCAA sports. Even if you are not interested in competing in intercollegiate athletics, take a look at the different intramural sports, clubs, and organizations you could join.

College

/ˈkälɪj /n.

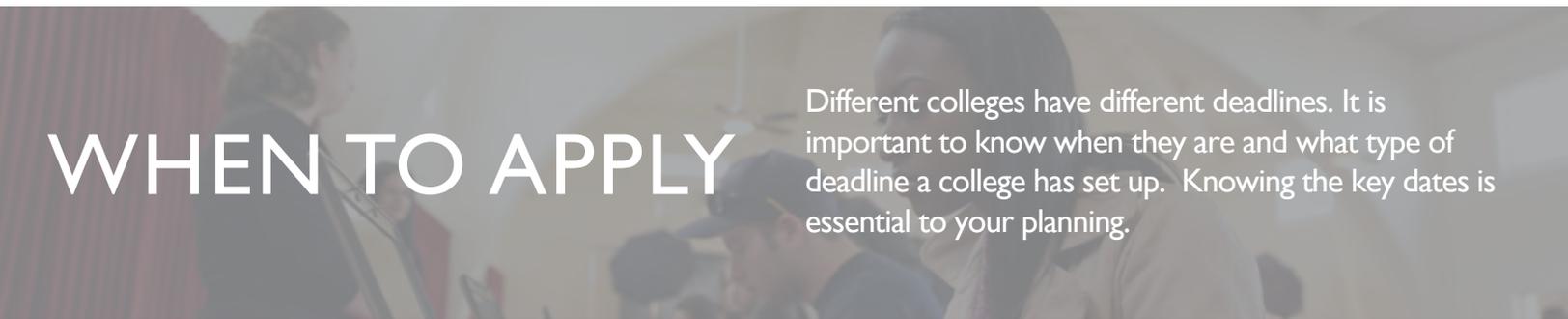
An institution of higher
education that grants
degrees and certificates





APPLYING

Applying to colleges can be a daunting task. We will break down the application into five categories to help you better understand what you are getting into. If you know the following terms it could make the difference between finishing an application in a few days instead of a few weeks!



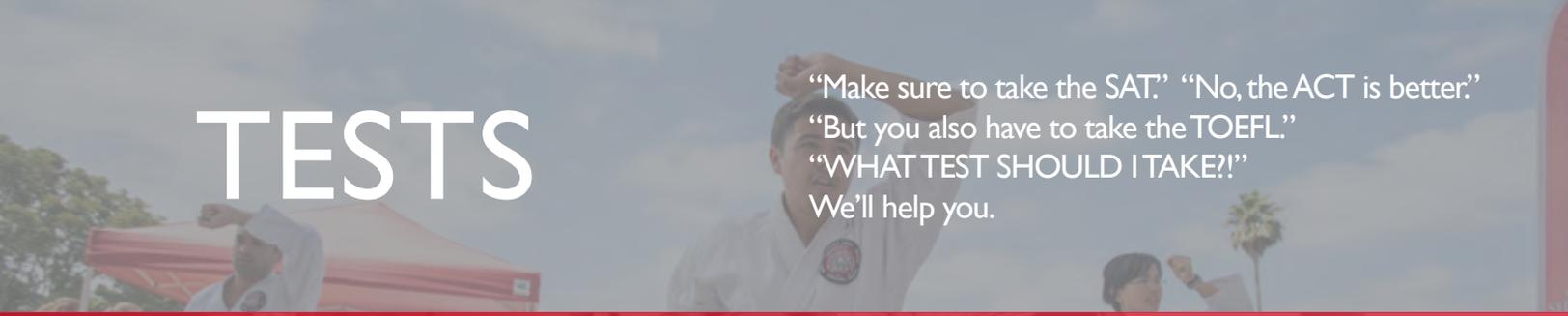
WHEN TO APPLY

Different colleges have different deadlines. It is important to know when they are and what type of deadline a college has set up. Knowing the key dates is essential to your planning.



WHAT COLLEGES CONSIDER

Every college has specific qualities they are looking for in prospective students. Understanding what colleges expect from you can go a long way in turning yourself into a competitive applicant.



TESTS

“Make sure to take the SAT.” “No, the ACT is better.”
“But you also have to take the TOEFL.”
“WHAT TEST SHOULD I TAKE?!”
We’ll help you.



THE APPLICATION

You want to make sure that you complete everything and turn in all that is required in order to be considered by the college. Here is what you will commonly see on college applications.

WHEN TO APPLY

Application Deadline

The deadline is set each college admissions offices. Applications for admission will not be accepted after this date.

Priority Deadline

Applications submitted after this deadline will be considered, but applications submitted before the deadline take priority.

Rolling Admission

Applications are reviewed as soon as they come in, and spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

WHAT COLLEGES CONSIDER

Admissible

The term used to describe an applicant who fulfills the admissions requirements set by an institution.

Course Rigor

Measure of how challenging an applicant's classes or combination of classes are (Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate, College in the High School and are examples of classes that tend to be more challenging).

Extracurricular Activities

Activities you may be involved in that are not high school courses (basketball, DECA, Culinary Club, a part-time job).

Grade Trend

The improvement, regression, or constancy of course grades and GPA throughout an applicant's academic history. Typically, colleges want to see a progression or upward grade trend.

Holistic Review

The review process which evaluates a student's application and considers the whole person. Different factors taken into consideration may include academic record, grade trend, activities list, personal statement(s), letter(s) of recommendation, etc.

TIPS

1. Read the directions. Make sure that you know exactly what the college is asking you to submit.
2. Proofread. Proofread. **Proofread.**

TESTS

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Testing)

A standardized test for most college admissions in the United States.

ACT (American College Testing)

A college readiness assessment and standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions.

Placement Tests

Exams are typically used to determine which level of mathematics and English courses you are prepared to enroll in. These exams are mandatory for enrollment.

Advance Placement Exams (AP)

AP exams are typically taken after a AP course. Students can earn up to 8 semester units of college credit.

APPLICATION

Common Application

An application that students can use to apply to any college or university that accepts the Common Application. This application only needs to be filled out once; the information on this application is sent to multiple schools. Generally, a separate fee must be paid to each college for whom the student applies to through the Common Application.

Letter of Recommendation

A written statement of endorsement on a student's behalf, usually by a teacher, coach, advisor or other adult who is able to speak to the student's achievements and/or character.

Personal Statement

An essay component of the college application that gives applicants the opportunity to tell a school about themselves - their hopes, ambitions, life experiences, inspirations, etc. and give the school a more holistic view of themselves.

Transcript

The official document containing the record of a student's academic performance graduation date, and testing history. The school at which a student is or has been officially enrolled must issue the transcript.



USEFUL LINKS

SAT | www.sat.collegeboard.org

ACT | www.actstudent.org

ELM/EPT | www.ets.org/csuci/about

Early Start | www.csuci.edu/earlystart/

CSU Mentor
www.csumentor.edu

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Visit CI - Campus Tours
www.csuci.edu/visit-campus/



APPLICATION PROCESS

You've finished your application. Good work! Now the college is using some confusing words about your application status. Let us help you decode those words.

Acceptance

A student's application to attend a college or university is approved and the student is able to enroll.

Admissions Appeal

A student may contest an admissions decision made by a college or university if they believe the college did not make the right decision or if they would like to request another review of their application.

Deferred Enrollment

An applicant is accepted but agrees to enroll in school in a future quarter/semester/year.

Denial

A student's application to attend a college or university is not approved. The decision to deny an applicant's admission can be based on various factors (e.g., applicant did not fulfill the minimum admissions requirements, limited space, etc.).

Dually Enrolled

A student is concurrently enrolled in two separate institutions.

Waitlisted

An applicant is neither accepted nor denied but may be offered admission if space becomes available.

YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED! NOW WHAT?

Make sure to read all the instructions from your future college. Here are some of the common actions you might have to take.

Visit the campus (not required but recommended)

Activate your online account

*Confirm your admission

Take placement test(s)

Sign up for Orientation

Submit final transcripts

Submit Measles Immunization Verification Form

*Confirmation may require a non-refundable deposit.



De · gree

/ di-gre /n.

An academic rank conferred by a college or university after examination or after completion of a course of study.

FINANCIAL AID

The price tag for college can be expensive. However, if you put in the effort and do your research, attending a college can be more affordable than you think. Here is your guide to understanding the basics of Financial Aid.

1 Fill out your FAFSA

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be filled out online at fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA considers



Family Members



Family Income, Assets, etc.

Calculates

EFC

Expected Family Contribution



Once accepted to the college, they will decide how much aid to provide you.



Scholarships



Grants



Loans

Colleges will send a **FINANCIAL AID** notification with the amount of scholarships, grants, and/or loans.



You can accept or decline your financial aid options.

Award Letter/Financial Aid Notification

An offer from a college or university that outlines the total amount and types of financial aid and scholarships the school is willing to provide if a student accepts admission and enrolls.

Cost of Attendance (COA)

Typically the COA includes tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, miscellaneous expenses and loan fees.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

This number is a result of information provided on the FAFSA (e.g., income, household size, number of family members enrolled in college, etc.). It is used to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid and represents how much a family can reasonably pay towards college expenses.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

An application for prospective and current students to determine eligibility for financial aid.

Grants

Funds awarded to students that do not have to be repaid. Grants are often based on financial need.

Scholarships

Money awarded to students based on academic or personal achievements and financial need.

Work-Study

A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while enrolled in school to help pay for educational expenses.

Loans

Funds for students to borrow to pay for educational expenses. Students are required to repay loans with interest.

Private Loans

A nonfederal loan provided by a lender such as a bank or credit union.

Direct Subsidized Loan

A loan based on financial need for which the federal government pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is enrolled in classes or in deferment status.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan

A loan for which the borrower is responsible for paying the interest. Interest accrues from the date of disbursement and continues throughout the life of the loan.

3

Find Scholarships

There is more than one way to get a full ride to college. By taking the time to search and apply for scholarships, you could find enough to pay for your education. Make this your part time job! There are three common place you can find scholarships.



Websites like [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com), collegeboard.com, and [scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com) are great for searching for scholarships and spreading a wide net.

Universities/Colleges may provide two types of scholarships. One is awarded automatically based on merit (grades, service, etc.). Other scholarships require students to apply, separate from their admission application. Check the Admissions or Financial Aid section of the school's website.

Some businesses may offer scholarships and don't post them on scholarship search engines. Check out different businesses' websites to find out if they are offering any scholarships.



Christian Ramos | Major: Mathematics

“All throughout high school, I had been dreading choosing a college to attend. It meant having to make a big decision about my future. As soon as I found CSU Channel Islands, that big decision became an easy one. The environment here at CI is extremely welcoming, and it has what I like to call “home town” feel. Receiving the Presidential Scholarship was a great honor, and it was a sign of immense trust. Channel Islands is so much more than a school that offers what I think I want. It's a community I can trust to guide me where I want to go, but also introduce to me various opportunities to explore passions I never knew I had.”

PARTING WORDS

Since you got all the way to the end of our dictionary, you obviously know the importance of college. Let us leave you with our final tips and send you on your way.



GO TO COLLEGE

There are countless statistics out there that prove going to college will open up more doors for you than if you just have a high school diploma. Even if you aren't sure about what you want to do in the future, college is the time to help answer those questions.



CHOOSE THE RIGHT FIT

As you know, there are thousands of colleges to choose from. Do your research, take some tours, and decide what campus fits your needs and personality best. Being comfortable in your environment will help you become a better college student.



LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Make searching and applying for scholarships your priority. There are millions of dollars worth of scholarships out there. You just need to take the time to look and find them. This could save you a lot of money in the long run.



ASK QUESTIONS

Don't be afraid to ask questions. This new journey you are on can be a complicated process. Speak to your high school counselors, call up the colleges you are interested in, and talk to your friends who are in college. People want to help you. Sometimes you just need to ask questions.

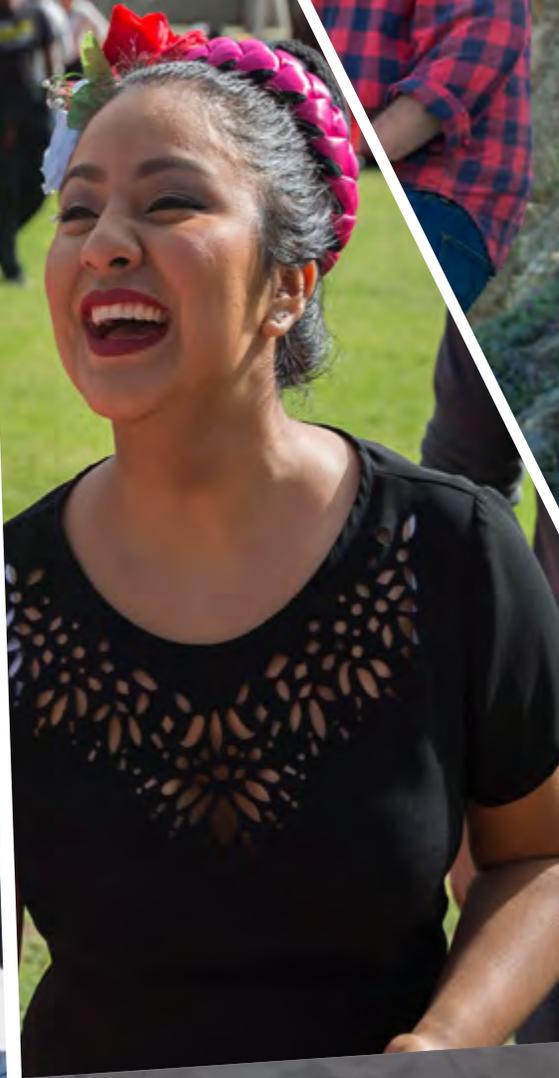


Cam · pus

\`kam-pə s\ n.

The area and buildings
around a university,
college, school, etc.

CSU Channel Islands
Admissions & Recruitment Office
One University Drive
Camarillo CA 93012
admissions@csuci.edu
www.csuci.edu/admissions



Channel Islands
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY