

Terms to Know

The college admissions process has a vocabulary all its own and often uses abbreviations which you need to know. The following definitions and explanations will serve as a reference.

TESTS AND TESTING:

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test):

The PSAT/NMSQT taken in October of the sophomore or junior year provides a practice test in preparation for the SAT. It is the same format as the SAT and is useful as an indicator of SAT scores. PSAT scores are not usually used by colleges as admissions criteria, but one's score on the test, as an 11th grader, does determine qualification for participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

SAT I (Scholastic Aptitude Test): The SAT is generally taken in the spring of the junior year and may again be taken in the senior year. It is a required test for admissions to many colleges. Scored on the basis of 200 (low) to 800 (high), in each of three areas (Math Critical, Reading, Writing), the SAT is an examination designed to test a student's aptitude for scholastic work.

SAT II Subject Tests: SAT IIs are administered in several academic subjects and are designed to test the level of knowledge in a specific academic discipline. SAT IIs are scored on the same 200 to 800 basis as the SAT. It is possible to take up to three SAT IIs on one test. Not all colleges require SAT IIs. Some use them for placement in various levels of freshman courses; some use them as an additional factor in the admissions process.

AP (Advanced Placement) Tests: AP tests are designed for students who have completed college level courses in high school. They are used in determining whether or not a student may gain advanced standing in college. Scores range from 1 – 5.

ACT (American College Testing) Program: The ACT is a standardized test of achievement composed of four sections : English, Mathematics, Reading and Science Reasoning. There is also an optional writing section, which measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. It is scored on a scale of 1 to 36 (highest). Majority of colleges accept scores on either the SAT or ACT.

ADMISSIONS:

Rolling Admission: Most colleges using rolling admissions will review applications as the files are completed and return decisions within a few weeks. Many state universities use this plan. Under this system it is advantageous to apply early in the fall.

NCAA Requirements: Before a high school athlete can play a college sport or receive an athletic scholarship at a Division I or II college, he/she must meet specific academic criteria as set forth by the NCAA. Students must take specific high school courses and receive ACT or SAT scores above a specific minimum standard. Students should see their counselor in grade 10 to discuss these requirements.

During their junior year they should take their SAT or ACT exams. Athletes also need to complete an NCAA Clearinghouse Student Release Form during their senior year in order to initiate the eligibility process. Forms are available in guidance. Further explanation of NCAA requirement is listed in this booklet.

Bachelor Degree (Baccalaureate): A college degree earned after 4 years of college within a specific major.

CUNY (City University of New York): The public college system of New York City.

SUNY (City University of New York): The public college system of New York State.

E.T.S. (Educational Testing Service): Located in Princeton, New Jersey, E.T.S. designs and provides administration materials for the College Board (CEEB).

F.A.F.S.A. (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): Filled out in senior year and filed with CCS in Princeton for analysis of financial need.

CEEB (College Entrance Examination Board):

The organization which administers test programs and advanced placement programs. Sometimes called the “College Board. The CEEB code for Beacon High School is 330-360

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Transcript: The official school record where all student courses and credits are recorded with grades earned and overall average for grades 9 – 12. The transcript also includes the student’s rank-in-class.

Tuition: Costs associated with registering for and enrolling in classes.