



## ***THE TALK - A GUIDE TO COLLEGE TERMINOLOGY***

**ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET:** A tuition-savings program for college students in 15 Southern Regional Education Board states who want to pursue degrees that are not offered by their in-state institutions. Students can enroll in out-of-state institutions that offer their degree program and pay the institution's in-state tuition rates.

**ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE:** Awarded by a college or university after satisfactory completion of a two-year program of study.

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE:** Awarded by a college or university after satisfactory completion of a four-year course of study or its equivalent.

**COALITION APPLICATION:** A standard application form accepted by members of the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success. You can use this application to apply to any of the more than 90 colleges and universities that are members of the Coalition.

**COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY:** An essay that a college requires students to write and submit as part of their application. Some colleges offer applicants specific questions to answer, while others simply ask applicants to write about themselves. Colleges may refer to this as a "personal statement."

**COMMON APPLICATION:** A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill out this application once and submit it to any one — or several — of the over 800 colleges that accept it. You may have supplemental questions or forms to complete for some of your colleges and you will be required to pay the application for each college.

**COMMON BLACK COLLEGE APPLICATION:** A standard application form that allows students who are interested in attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities to apply once and pay one application fee to any of 53 HBCUs.

**COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA):** The estimated full and reasonable cost of completing an academic year as a full-time student. Your COA includes tuition, room and board (meals), books, and fees.

**CSS PROFILE:** An online aid application used by over 300 colleges and scholarship providers. Administered by the College Board, it is used primarily by private schools and some state universities to award institutional grants and scholarships.

**DEFERRED ADMISSION:** Permission from a college that has accepted you to postpone enrolling in the college. The postponement is usually for up to one year.

**EARLY ACTION:** An option to submit your applications before the regular deadlines. When you apply early action, you get admission decisions from colleges earlier than usual. Early action plans are not binding, which means that you do not have to enroll in a college if you are accepted early action. Some colleges have an early action option called EA II, which has a later application deadline than their regular EA plan.

**EARLY DECISION:** An option to submit an application to your first-choice college before the regular deadline. When you apply early decision, you get an admission decision earlier than usual. Early decision plans are binding. You agree to enroll in the college immediately if admitted and offered a financial aid package that meets your needs. Some colleges have an early decision option called ED II, which has a later application deadline than their regular ED plan. **You may only apply early decision to one school.**

**EFC:** Expected Family Contribution - Based on tax information provided on the FAFSA, this number is a calculation of how much financial support the family is able to contribute to a student's college expenses.

**FAFSA:** FREE Application for Federal Student Aid - An on-line form used to determine eligibility for federal aid, including the Pell grant and subsidized/unsubsidized loans. Filing of the FAFSA is also required to be eligible for State aid, including the HOPE Scholarship and is required by many colleges and universities - especially public institutions.

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**FEDERAL SUBSIDIZED LOAN:** A low-interest student loan which does not accrue interest while you're enrolled at least half-time in college and for six months after you graduate (the Federal Government pays the interest during this time period). You do not begin repaying the loan until after you leave college or enroll for less than half-time.

**FEDERAL UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN:** A low-interest student loan which begins accruing interest the first day you borrow the money. You do not begin repaying the loan until after you leave college or enroll for less than half-time.

**FINANCIAL AID:** Money given or loaned to you to help pay for college. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations.

**FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE:** The total amount of monetary assistance a school offers you. It is made up of components from one or more of the following three categories: scholarships and grants, loans and Federal Work-Study, depending upon eligibility.

**HIGH SCHOOL CODE/CEEB-ACT CODE:** An identification number assigned to each high school. **MLK's** CEEB/ACT code is **431-711**. **Hume Fogg's** code is **431-690**. **East's** code is **431-660**.

**HOPE SCHOLARSHIP:** A program which provides scholarship assistance to Tennesseans attending eligible Tennessee postsecondary institutions. To be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship, you must have either a 21 ACT composite score or a 3.0 unweighted GPA.

**LEGACY APPLICANT:** A college applicant with a relative (usually a parent or grandparent) who graduated from that college. Some colleges give preference to legacy applicants (also called "legacies").

**MERIT-BASED AID:** Financial aid which is usually awarded in the form of scholarships or grants. Merit aid is not awarded with regard to your family's financial circumstances, but is based on academic performance or other talents or contributions.

**NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER:** The NCAA Eligibility Center (formally known as the NCAA Clearinghouse) is an arm of the NCAA responsible for determining the eligibility of student athletes at the DI and DII levels. Students interested in playing NCAA sports must register with the Eligibility Center.

**NAIA:** This college athletics association, oversees eligibility for athletes at its 251 colleges and universities in North America. Students interested in playing NAIA sports must register with the NAIA Eligibility Center

**NEED-BASED AID:** Financial aid based solely on the assets and income of the student and his or her family. Factors such as test scores or athletic ability have no bearing on need-based aid.

**NEED-BLIND ADMISSION:** A policy of making admission decisions without considering the financial circumstances of applicants. Colleges that use this policy may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student's full need.

**ROLLING ADMISSION:** An admission policy of considering each application as soon as all required information (such as high school records and test scores) has been received, rather than setting an application deadline and reviewing applications in a batch. Colleges that use a rolling admission policy usually notify applicants of admission decisions quickly.

**SELECTIVE SERVICE:** The Selective Service System is an independent American agency that registers all men between the ages of 18 and 25, in the event that the United States Congress authorizes a draft for military service. Men will not get any federal financial aid unless they register.

**TENNESSEE PROMISE:** A scholarship program offering high school graduates two years' free tuition at any Tennessee community college, technical college, or Associate's Degree program at a four-year college. Tennessee Promise is gap funding – meaning it is applied if a student has remaining financial need after federal and state funds have been exhausted. The program requires completing an on-line application by an established deadline, attending a mandatory information meeting, and completing at least 8 hours of community service.

**WAITLISTED:** An applicant who may be admitted to a college if space becomes available. Colleges wait to hear if all the students they accepted decide to attend. If students don't enroll and there are empty spots, a college may fill them with students who are on the waiting list.