**College Lingo**

**College**: generally, any institution for the education of undergraduate students

**Undergraduates**: College students as opposed to high school students or graduate students who have already graduated from college and are working toward a further degree.

**TYPES OF COLLEGES**

**Liberal Arts College**: An institution specializing in the higher education of undergraduates using a traditional core curriculum of literature, language, history, philosophy, math, psychology, and science.

**University**: An institution of higher education and research that provides both undergraduate and graduate education. A collection of colleges.

**Private Colleges/Universities**: Run by non-profit organizations, not the government. Usually much more expensive than attending a state school in the state where you live.

**Public Colleges/Universities**: Also called state schools, mainly funded by the state government. Two different tuition prices – a lower price for in-state students and a higher price for out-of-state students.

**For-Profit Colleges**: Run as businesses, their main goal it to make money for the owners. They usually have much lower graduation rates than public and private colleges.

**Community Colleges**: Primarily two-year state schools that offer an Associate Degree. After getting an associate degree, some students continue to complete a bachelor’s degree at a 4-year school by studying for 2-3 additional years.

**Four-Year Colleges/Universities**: Award a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) or B.S. (Bachelor of Science) for completing 4 years of prescribed course work.

**Ivy League Schools**: Technically, an athletic conference of 8 schools – Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, Penn and Yale. Sometimes used to mean the very top colleges and universities in the country.

**ADMISSIONS**

**Reach School**: A college that you have a chance of getting into, but your test scores and grades are below the average on the school’s profile.

**Probable (Target) School**: A college where you fit the profile of the middle 50% of students.

**Foundation (Safety) School**: A school you will almost certainly be admitted to because your scores are about the average in the school’s profile.

**Early Decision**: Binding. A good plan for students who know exactly which college they want to attend and think they will be accepted. This option allows students to apply early in their senior year, but the student must agree to attend if accepted.

**Early Action**: Not binding. An option that allows students to apply early in their senior year to their top college choices without the commitment to attend if accepted.

**Rolling Admissions**: Some schools consider your application as soon as they have all the necessary documents and will let you know if you have been accepted right away.

**Common Application**: A standardized, online college application form that is accepted by over 400 colleges and universities. Some require a supplement to the standard form.

**High School Profile**: A form created by each high school that provides information to colleges about the student body and opportunities offered at that specific high school.

**FINANCIAL AID**

**Tuition:** How much your college classes cost.

**Room and Board**: How much your college dorm room and meals cost.

**Fees, Books, and Transportation**: Additional costs of attending college not included in tuition and room and board.

**FAFSA**: **Free Application for Federal Student Aid**. The form filed with the federal government detailing your parents’ income, used to determine your eligibility for financial aid. File in January or February of your senior year and every year in college.

**CSS Financial Aid Profile**: A financial reporting form required by some colleges in addition to the FAFSA.

**EFC**: **Expected Family Contribution.** The total amount the federal government expects you and your family to pay towards your college expenses each year.

**SAR: Student Aid Report.** Summarizes the data from your FAFSA and indicates your EFC. This is what you send to colleges so they can determine your financial aid package.

**Financial Aid Package**: A combination of scholarships, loans and work-study that the specific college is able to offer to help students attend. Loans must be paid back.

**Work-study:** Student employment on campus, eligibility for which is determined by the college based on the student’s FAFSA.

**Pell Grant:** Need-based grants of up to $5,500 a year given to low-income students by the federal government based on their FAFSA. Does not need to be repaid.

**Merit Scholarships:** Financial assistance that is based on the expectation of the student’s distinction in academics, sports, or other areas. Does not need to be repaid.

**Need-based Scholarships**: Also called financial aid. Financial assistance that is based on need. Does not need to be repaid.

**Government Loans or Private Loans:** Money for college that must be repaid.

**Fee Waiver**: Permits students on free or reduced lunch to submit a limited number of college applications and test registration forms without a fee. (see your counselor)

**ATHLETICS**

**NCAA:** **National Collegiate Athletic Association.** Athletic governing body for over 800 colleges that belong in Divisions 1, 2 or 3. Required to follow the NCAA policies on recruitment and scholarships that have been established for their division.

**NAIA: National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics**. Athletic governing body for over 500 small four-year schools. Required to follow the NAIA policies on recruitment and scholarships.