COLLEGE VOCABULARY

ACCREDITATION: Recognition by an accrediting organization or agency that a college meets certain minimum standards in programs, services and facilities.

ACT: American College Testing Program – an alternative college admission test. Measures English, math, reading, writing and science reasoning abilities. Accepted in lieu of SAT I and/or SAT II at many colleges. Registration forms are available in the guidance office or you can register online at www.act.org. Please note that test centers are limited in this area.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: Designed for students who have completed AP classes in high school and the exam in each subject area. Colleges may grant advanced standing and credit depending upon grades earned on exams.

ADVISOR: A member of the teaching faculty who advises students on course selection and curriculum concerns.

APPLICATION FEE: A non-refundable fee usually charged for making application to a particular college.

AUDIT: Attend a class without getting credit for it.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE: A Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or any other bachelor’s degree granted by a college or university for a program that typically requires four years of full-time study.

CALENDAR: The system by which an institution divides its year into shorter periods for instruction. The most common calendars are semester, trimester, quarter and 4-1-4.

CAMPUS - the area and buildings around a university, college, school, etc.

CANDIDATES REPLY DATE AGREEMENT: This agreement established a common date, May 1st, as the earliest date a college or university may require an accepted applicant to say whether he or she plans to attend. Early Decision applications are exempt from this agreement.

CARNEGIE UNIT: One Carnegie unit is given for successful completion of one year’s study of one college preparatory or academic subject in high school.

CEEB: College Entrance Examination Board. The organization that sponsors the most widely accepted battery of tests for college admission. Registration materials are available in the guidance office. These publications will be helpful to you in keeping track of registration dates, understanding the format of the tests and interpreting scores.

COED (coeducational)- a place that includes both women and men
CONSORTIUM: A voluntary association of two or more colleges providing joint services and academic programs to students enrolled in member institutions. Students at one campus are allowed to attend courses and use the facilities at other member campuses.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION: A program integrating classroom study and work experience and offering credit and salary.

CORE CURRICULUM: A group of courses in varied areas of the arts and sciences designated by a college as one of the requirements for a degree.

COURSE LOAD: The number of hours taken in a given semester or quarter. A typical load is 15-18 semester hours or 15-17 quarter hours.

CSS: College Scholarship Service is a service of the College Board that uses a financial aid form to standardize the method of determining a student’s financial need.

CUNY: City University of New York

DEFERRED ADMISSION: The practice of permitting students to postpone enrollment for one year after acceptance to the college.

EARLY ACTION: A student applies early in the fall of senior year and receives notification, usually by the end of January. This is a non-binding commitment and allows the student to submit additional applications and to accept or decline the offer of admission by May 1st.

EARLY DECISION: This is an application procedure whereby the student applies early in the fall of the senior year, usually by November 1st, to their FIRST CHOICE College, and agrees by contract (binding) to enter that college if offered admission. If accepted, usually by the end of December, the student MUST withdraw all other applications; you are contractually obligated to enroll. You may be accepted, denied or deferred.

ETS: Educational Testing Service, a non-profit organization that oversees the various testing and financial aid programs of the CEEB.

FEE WAIVER: Request for reduction or elimination of application, testing or financial aid form fees, usually based upon financial need.

FINANCIAL AID – money that is given or lent to students in order to help pay for their education

FRESHMEN - a student in the first year of high school or college

GPA: Grade Point Average

HONORS PROGRAM: Any special program for very able students, which offers the opportunity for educational enrichment, independent study, acceleration or some combination of these.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: An arrangement that allows students to complete some of their college program by studying independently instead of attending scheduled classes and
completing group assignments. Typically, students plan programs of study in consultation with a faculty advisor or committee, to whom they may report periodically and submit a final report for evaluation.

**INTERNSHIPS**: Short-term, supervised work experience, usually related to a student’s major, for which the student earns credit. The work can be full or part-time, on or off campus, paid or unpaid.

**JANUARY ADMISSION**: An option offered by some colleges to matriculate at the second semester.

**LIBERAL ARTS**: A broad course of instruction comprising the arts, natural sciences, languages, literature, philosophy, religion and the classics; areas of study (such as history, language, and literature) that are intended to give you general knowledge rather than to develop specific skills needed for a profession.

**MATRICULATION**: the process whereby a student is accepted, pays the fees and enrolls in classes - officially becoming a student at the college. This term is only applied to freshmen or to a transfer student’s first enrollment.

**NAVIANCE**: Web-based software used to assist students with the college process.

**NEED BLIND ADMISSION**: Financial need does not impact on the admission process.

**NEEDS ANALYSIS**: The process used to evaluate an applicant’s financial situation to determine how much financial aid a student would be eligible for to meet post-secondary education expenses.

**OPEN ADMISSION**: The college admission policy of admitting high school graduates and other adults generally without regard to conventional academic qualifications, such as high school subject, high school grades and admissions test scores. Virtually all applicants with high school diplomas or their equivalent are accepted.

**PLACEMENT TESTS**: A battery of tests designed to assess a student’s aptitude and level of achievement in various academic areas so that he or she may be advised to enroll in the appropriate level classes.

**PRIVATE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**: An educational institution of higher education, which is not supported by public taxes. Private colleges may be independent or church related.

**PSAT/NMSQT**: Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. A practice SAT I that is taken in October of the junior year and is useful as an indicator of SAT I scores. It is designed to give you an idea of the procedures, questions and scope of the SAT I. Detailed results are reported in a way that helps you to see your strengths and weaknesses. It is not used in the college admissions process. It is used as the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**PUBLIC COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY**: An educational institution of higher education, which is supported by public taxes.
REGISTRATION: A process at the beginning of each semester or quarter whereby the student selects the courses he or she will enroll in, pays the appropriate fees and sets up a class schedule for the semester or term.

Residential – an area or place that is used to live

ROLLING ADMISSION: Certain colleges or universities have a policy of admitting qualified students on a “first-come, first-served” basis, applications are reviewed in the order they are received. Applicants are notified of admission decisions as soon as credentials are submitted and processed. It is advantageous to apply early in the fall of your senior year.

ROTC: Reserve Officer Training Corps. Programs conducted by certain colleges in cooperation with the United States Air Force, Army and Navy/Marines. Local recruiting offices of the services themselves can supply detailed information about these programs, as can participating colleges.

SAT I - REASONING TESTS: A three hour standardized test, which measures critical reading, writing, and math skills. This test is required for admission to most colleges and is scored from 200 to 800 on each section (math, verbal, writing). The test is given at specified test centers throughout the school year, although it is generally taken in Spring of Junior year and retaken in Fall of Senior year. Registration forms are available in the guidance office or you can register online at www.sat.org.

SAT II – SUBJECT TESTS: One-hour subject tests, which measure knowledge of particular subjects and the student’s ability to apply that knowledge. It is possible to take up to three SAT II’s on one test date. These tests are scored on the same scale (200 to 800) as SAT I. In general, you should not take an SAT II test until you have nearly completed a subject. You do not have to inform CEEB in advance as to which test you will be taking. All tests are part of one large booklet which you are given at the test center. With the exception of the writing test, it is your decision as to how many tests you take and in which order. Not all colleges require SAT II. Students are responsible for checking individual college requirements. Registration forms are available in the guidance office or you can register online at www.sat.org.


SEMINAR: A course in which a small group of students, headed by a professional, engages in research and discussion.

SUBURBAN – town or other area where people live in homes near a larger city

SUMMER ADMISSION: Requires students who do not initially meet a college’s admissions criteria to attend a summer session in order to prove their ability to succeed before enrolling in the fall. Students must maintain a specified grade point average.

SUNY: State University of New York.
**TOEFL**: Test of English as a Foreign Language, which is taken by students whose English is their second language.

**TRANSCRIPT**: The official record of a student’s academic performance from the time of entrance in a given institution to the end of the latest semester.

**TRANSFER PROGRAM**: An education program in a two-year college that is offered primarily for students who plan to continue their studies in a four-year college or university.

**TRIMESTER**: An academic calendar period of about 15 weeks. Three trimesters make up one year. Students make normal progress by attending two of the trimesters each year and in some colleges can accelerate their programs by attending all three trimesters in one or more years.

**TUITION**: The charge for instruction. Generally designated for a year or semester for a full-time student; for part-time students it is often designated by the credit hour of a course.

**UNDERGRADUATE** - a student at a college or university who has not yet earned a degree

**URBAN** – relating to the city, and the people that live in them