

College Admission Glossary:

ACT – A standardized college admission test. It features four main sections: English, math, reading and science. There is also an optional essay section as well.

Admission Test – Also Known As College entrance exams. These tests are designed to measure students' skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college – level work. The ACT and the College Board's SAT are two standardized admission tests used in the United States. The word "standardized": means that the test measures the same thing in the same way for everyone who takes it.

Articulation Agreement – An agreement between 2 – year and 4 – year colleges that make it easier to transfer credits between them. It spells out which courses count for degree credit and the grades you need to earn to get credit.

Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA) – An agreement many colleges follow that gives applicants until May 1 to accept or decline offers of admission. This agreement gives students time to get responses from most of the colleges they have applied to before deciding on one.

Class Rank – A measurement of how your academic achievement compares with that of other students in your grade. This number is usually determined by using a weighted GPA that takes into account both your grades and the difficulty of the courses you've taken.

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 the applicant to write about themselves. College may refer to this as a "personal statement."

College Credit – what you get when you successfully complete a college-level course. You need a certain number of credits to graduate with a degree. Colleges may also grant credit for scores on exams, such as those offered by the College Board's AP Program and CLEP.

Common Application – A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are members of the Common Application association. You can fill this application out once and submit to any one – or several- of the nearly 700 colleges that accept it. Go to: www.commonapplication

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 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 – and 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.

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.

Grade Point Average – A number that shows overall academic performance. It's computed by assigning a point value to each grade you earn.

Legacy Applicant – A college applicant with a relative (usually a parent or grandparent) who graduated from that college. Some colleges give preferences to legacy applicants (also called "legacies".)

Need Blind Admission – A policy of making admission decisions without considering the financial circumstances of applicants. Colleges that use this policay may not offer enough financial aid to meet a student's full need.

Open Admission – A policy of accepting any high school graduate, no matter what his/her grades are, until all of the spaces in the incoming class are filled. Almost all 2-year community colleges have an open admission policy. However, a college with a general open admission policy may have admission requirements for certain programs.

Placement Tests – Ready for and whether you would benefit for remedial classes.

Priority Date or Deadline – The date by which your application – whether it's for college admission, student housing or financial aid – must be received to be given the strongest consideration.

Registrar – The college official who registers students. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records and maintaining your student file.

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.

SAT – The College Board’s standardized college admission test. It features three main sections: math, reading and writing, which includes a written essay.

SAT Subject Tests – Hour-long, content-based college admission tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas: English, history, math science and languages. Some colleges use Subject tests to place students into the appropriate courses as well as in admission decisions. Based on your performance on the test (s), you could potentially fulfill basic requirements or earn credit for introductory-level courses.

Sophomore Standing – The status of a second year student. A college may grant sophomore standing to an incoming freshman if he/she has earned college credits through courses, exams or other programs.

Transcript – The official record of your course work at a high school or college. Your high school transcript is usually required for college admission and for some financial aid packages.

Transfer Student – A student who enrolls in a college after having attended another college.

Undergraduate – A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor’s degree.

Universal College Application – A standard application form accepted by all colleges that are Universal College Application members. You can fill out this application once and submit to any one – or – several of the more than 3,044 colleges that accept it.

Wait List – The list of applicants 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 Wait List.

Weighted Grade Point Average – A grade point average that’s calculated using a system that assigns a higher point value to grades in more difficult classes. For example, some high schools assign the value of 5.0 (instead of the standard 4.0) for an A earned in an AP class.

**At Riverhead High School final course grades are multiplied by 1.18 for AP courses, 1.08 for Honors courses and 1.04 for Regents courses. These multipliers are reflected as part of a students *weighted GPA*.