

TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW

General

Credit – unit of measurement for high school classes, one semester equals one half credit, one year equals one full credit

Transcript – document that lists all courses attempted/completed in high school or college, includes demographic information, grades, and sometimes test scores

Semester – half-year, ranging from August to December, and January to June

GPA – grade point average, begins freshman year and is cumulative until graduation

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid – government application required to qualify for grants and loans

Programs

Certificate – varies in length, typically less than 2 years to complete in a vocational or technical area to prepare for a specific career

Associate's Degree – typically a 2-year degree where students enter the workforce immediately following or transfer to a 4-year university

Bachelor's Degree – typically a 4-year degree granted from a university

Undergraduate Degree – Bachelor's Degree

Master's Degree – typically a 2-year degree earned after the bachelor's degree

Graduate Degree – any degree earned after the undergraduate or bachelor's degree

Doctoral Degree – advanced graduate degree earned after a bachelor's or master's degree

Major – the primary field of study for the undergraduate degree

Minor – the secondary field of study for the undergraduate degree

Hours – the way credit is earned for college courses, indicated by the amount of time spent in a class each week (a 3-hr class means students sit in that class 3 hours per week)

Tests

ACT – required for admission to a 4-year university, the ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test.

SAT – required for admission to a 4-year university, the SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.

TSI – required for placement into community college classes, designed to determine if a student is ready for college-level course work in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics.