

# **College Prep Glossary A-Z**

## **College Admissions from A to Z**

What in the world is a FAFSA? What's the difference between EA and ED? If you're asking yourself these questions, your child is probably in the middle of the college admissions process. So, if you're wondering whether the NMSQT is a test or a furry animal, this glossary is for you.

## **Accreditation**

Official recognition that a college, university, or trade school has met the standards of a regional or national association.

## **Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>)**

Gives motivated high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. Thousands of colleges worldwide award credit or advanced placement to students with a qualifying grade on AP Exams. AP Exams are graded 1 to 5, with 5 as the highest.

## **American College Test (ACT)**

The ACT is a college entrance exam administered by the American College Testing Corporation that measures educational development in English, mathematics, social studies, and the natural sciences. Scores are reported as 1 to 36, with 36 as the highest. Most colleges accept scores from either the ACT or SAT<sup>®</sup>.

## **Articulation**

An agreement between a two-year and four-year college within the same state that allows a two-year college student automatic admission to a four-year college if she completes required courses.

## **Arts and Sciences**

A college course of study that includes the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, foreign languages, and fine arts.

## **Associate's Degree**

Awarded by a college or university after satisfactory completion of a two-year program of study.

## **Award Letter**

A document issued to a student financial aid recipient that indicates the type, amount, and disbursement dates of the funds awarded for various financial aid programs.

## **Bachelor's Degree**

Awarded by a four-year college or university after satisfactory completion of a program of study.

## **Campus-Based Aid**

Financial assistance for students and their families administered by a college. Funds, regardless of their source, are awarded to students by the college's financial aid office, and not by a state, federal, or private agency.

## **Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA)**

Allows a student to defer attendance decisions at participating colleges until May 1. This agreement gives students time to get responses from most of the colleges they have applied to before making a decision on one.

## **College Board**

A national nonprofit membership association whose mission is to prepare, inspire, and connect students to college and opportunity. The College Board administers the PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup>, SAT Reasoning Test<sup>™</sup>, SAT Subject Tests<sup>™</sup>, Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>), CLEP<sup>®</sup>, College Scholarship Service<sup>®</sup> (CSS<sup>®</sup>), and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE<sup>®</sup>.

## **College-Level Examination Program<sup>®</sup> (CLEP<sup>®</sup>)**

A credit-by-examination program that helps students of all ages earn college degrees faster by getting credit for what they already know. By receiving a satisfactory score, a student can earn from 3 to 12 college credits toward a college degree for each CLEP she takes, depending on the exam subject.

## **College Scholarship Service<sup>®</sup> (CSS<sup>®</sup>)**

A service of the College Board that assists postsecondary institutions, state scholarship programs, and other organizations in the equitable distribution of student financial aid funds by measuring a family's financial strength and analyzing its ability to contribute to college costs.

## **Common Application**

A standard application form accepted by more than 300 selective colleges in lieu of their own form. Available in high school guidance offices and online.

Go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

## **Consortium**

A group of colleges or universities that offer joint programs that allow students to share facilities and course offerings at member campuses. Consortia are generally made up of neighboring schools.

## **Cooperative Work-Study Education**

A full-time paid employment related to a student's field of study. The student alternates between work and full-time study. As a result, the bachelor's program usually takes five years to complete.

## **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®**

A financial aid form produced by the College Board required for students seeking aid at approximately 10 percent of the nation's four-year colleges (including the most highly selective institutions).

## **Deferral**

When a student's application for early decision or early action is postponed, and will be considered with the regular applicant pool.

## **Deferred Admission**

Allows an accepted student to postpone admission for one year.

## **Demonstrated Need**

The difference between the family contribution as established on the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the total cost of attending college.

## **Early Action (EA)**

A program that gives special consideration to a student who applies for admission by a specified date, usually in early fall. Students are not obligated to enroll if admitted (also known as early notification).

**Early Decision (ED)**

A program that gives special consideration to a student who applies for admission by a specified date, usually in early fall. Students are obligated to enroll if admitted, and to withdraw applications from other institutions.

**Educational Testing Service (ETS)**

A nonprofit organization that develops college entrance tests, including the SAT and SAT Subject Tests, for the College Board.

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

The amount a family can reasonably be expected to pay for one year of college.

**529 Savings Plans**

A state-operated investment plan that gives families a federal tax-free way to save money for college. Officially known as qualified tuition programs (QTPs).

**4-1-4 System**

An academic calendar consisting of two semesters made up of four months each, with a short winter term of one month in between.

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The need analysis form produced by the U.S. Department of Education that is required for students seeking aid by nearly all colleges and universities.

[Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Indicates a student's overall scholastic performance. It is computed by assigning a point value to each grade.

**Greek System**

Fraternities and sororities on campus, whose names originate from letters in the Greek alphabet.

**Humanities**

Courses focusing on human culture, including philosophy, foreign language, religion, and literature.

**Independent Study**

Allows a student to earn credit through self-designed coursework, which is usually planned and evaluated by a faculty member.

**Legacy**

An applicant whose parents or grandparents are graduates of the college or university to which she is applying.

**Liberal Arts**

A course of study that includes humanities, social science, natural sciences, mathematics, foreign languages, and fine arts.

**Major**

Area of concentration in a particular field of study. Usually students specialize in their majors during their junior and senior years at college.

**National Merit Scholarship Program**

A scholarship program based mostly on scores from the PSAT/NMSQT. Each year, National Merit students receive scholarships ranging from several hundred dollars to full costs of attendance.

**Need-Blind Admissions**

A policy in which colleges make admissions decisions without taking into account an applicant's financial circumstances. Schools that subscribe to this policy do not necessarily offer aid to meet the full need of an accepted applicant.

**Open Admissions**

Schools that take any high school graduate until all the openings are filled. Almost all two-year colleges have an open admissions policy.

**Preferential Packaging**

A policy in which the most desirable applicants get the best financial aid packages.

**PROFILE**

A financial aid form produced by the College Board required for students seeking aid at approximately 10 percent of the nation's four-year colleges (including the most highly selective institutions).

## **PSAT/NMSQT®**

The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. It also gives students a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) scholarship programs.

## **Quarter System**

Divides the nine-month academic calendar into three equal parts of approximately 12 weeks each. Summer sessions, if any, are usually the same length.

## **Registrar**

College official who registers students and collects fees. The registrar may also be responsible for keeping permanent records, maintaining student files, and forwarding copies of students' transcripts to employers and schools.

## **Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)**

Combines military education with college study leading to the bachelor's degree. For students who commit themselves to future service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, there is usually an offer of financial aid. Not all schools offer ROTC.

## **Residency Requirements**

Length of time stipulated by colleges or universities that students must spend on campus taking courses. The term also refers to time families or students must reside in a state before being considered eligible for state aid.

## **Rolling Admissions**

Admissions procedure by which the college considers each student's application as soon as all the required credentials have been received (e.g., school record, test scores). The college usually notifies applicants of its decision without delay.

## **SAT® (SAT Reasoning Test™)**

A 3 hour and 45 minute exam that measures the critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college. It measures skills in three areas: critical reading, mathematics, and writing.

## **SAT Subject Tests™**

One hour, primarily multiple-choice tests that measure achievement in specific subject areas.

## **Semester System**

Divides the academic year into two equal segments of approximately 18 weeks each. Summer sessions are shorter, but require more intensive study.

## **Student Aid Report (SAR)**

The form sent to families in response to submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) indicating the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

## **Student Search Service® (SSS®)**

A free information service for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, or AP Exams. By participating in Student Search Service, students let colleges, universities, and scholarship programs know they are interested in hearing from them.

## **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)**

An exam required by almost all U.S. colleges and universities for students whose principal language is not English. The test is made up of three multiple choice sections: listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and reading comprehension.

## **3-2 Program**

A program offering students three years of study in a liberal arts field followed by two years of professional or specialized study (e.g., engineering, teaching, nursing, business administration). The student is awarded two degrees upon successful completion of the program.

## **Transcript**

Official record of a student's coursework at a school or college. A high school transcript is generally required as part of the college application process.

## **Trimesters**

An academic calendar that is divided into three equal terms or semesters.

**Tuition Tax Credits**

Allow you to subtract, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the amount of the credit from your total federal income tax bill.

**Undergraduate**

A college student earning a bachelor's degree.

**Waitlist**

A list of applicants who may be considered for acceptance if there is still space after admitted students have decided whether or not they'll attend.

**Work-Study**

A federally funded program in which students take campus jobs as part of their financial aid package. To participate in a work-study program, students must complete the FAFSA.

**Yield**

Percentage of accepted applicants who enroll at a college.

# The Cost of College

## **Keep Increases in Perspective**

Here's the bad news: there's no escaping the fact that college prices are rising. According to recently released reports from the College Board, most students and their families can expect to pay, on average, from \$108 to \$1,398 more than last year for this year's tuition and fees, depending on the type of college.

Believe it or not though, there is good news. There is more than \$143 billion in financial aid available. And, despite all of these college price increases, a college education remains an affordable choice for most families.

## **Sticker Price vs. Affordability**

Although some of the college price tags you hear about can be quite daunting—\$35,000 or more for yearly tuition and fees—most colleges are more affordable than you might think. For example, did you know that about 56 percent of students at four-year schools pay less than \$9,000 for tuition and fees? After grants are taken into consideration, the net price the average undergraduate pays for a college education is significantly lower than the published tuition and fees. And remember, other forms of financial aid will further reduce the amount your family will actually pay.

## **Consider College an Investment**

Did you know that, according to a 2007 College Board Study, *Education Pays*, people with a bachelor's degree earn over 60 percent more than those with only a high school diploma? Over a lifetime, the gap in earning potential between a high school diploma and a B.A. is more than \$800,000. In other words, whatever sacrifices you and your child make for his or her college education in the short term are more than repaid in the long term.

## How Much Does College Cost?

Average College Prices 2008-09	But Did You Know That...
<p>Private four-year \$25,143 (up 5.9 percent from last year)</p> <p>Public four-year \$6,585 (up 6.4 percent from last year)</p>	<p>About 56 percent of students enrolled at four-year colleges or universities attend institutions that charge tuition and fees of less than \$9,000 per year.</p> <p>38 percent of full-time students enrolled in public four-year colleges and universities attend institutions that charge tuition and fees between \$3,000 and \$6,000.</p> <p>While private four-year institutions have a much wider range of tuition and fee charges, only about 9 percent of all students attend colleges with tuition and fees totaling \$33,000 or higher per year.</p>
<p>Public two-year \$2,402 (up 4.7 percent from last year)</p>	<p>32 percent of all full-time students attend public two-year colleges.</p>
<p>Students will pay, on average, from \$381 to \$408 more than last year for this year's room and board, depending on the type of college.</p> <p>The average surcharge for full-time out-of-state students at public four-year institutions is \$10,867.</p>	<p>More than \$143 billion in financial aid is available to students and their families.</p> <p>About two-thirds of all full-time undergraduate students receive grant aid. In 2008-09, estimated aid in the form of grants and tax benefits averaged about \$2,300 per student at public two-year colleges, about \$3,700 at public four-year colleges, and about \$10,200 per student at private four-year colleges.</p>

# Applying to Two Year and Vocational Colleges

## Pierce College

- Earn your associate's degree. Get on the fast track to transferring to a four-year school.
- Earn a professional or technical certification in a number of high-demand career fields.

### 1. Apply

Submitting a Pierce College admissions form is easy, fast, and free. Apply anytime and from anywhere online.

### 2. Discover financial aid options

Paying for your education is possible at Pierce College. Our financial aid advisors can help you locate the payment options that will work best with your budget. Learn about assistance options, including scholarships, grants, and loans, online.

### 3. Assess your skills

Planning to take an English or math course, or to take more than five credits at a time? Let us help. A simple test (COMPASS) can help ensure you get the class that's best suited for you.

### 4. Get advised

Starting college can be scary, but at Pierce, you'll never go it alone. Our advising center staff is here to help you plan your first quarter. They'll also assign you a faculty advisor to help you through the rest of your journey and into a successful future.

### 5. Register and pay

Avoid the rush and the hassle by registering and paying your tuition and fees online. It's never been easier!

### 6. Get oriented

Now that the hard work is done, it's time to have fun. Find your classes, meet your teachers and classmates, and pick up your student identification, parking pass, and books. Free orientation sessions are offered each quarter.

# Tacoma Community College

## ADMISSIONS APPLICATION - STEP 1

- **Admission Application:** Complete the Online Application for admission if you haven't already done so. If you are readmitting to TCC, you may call 253.566.5001 to update your application.

## ASSESSMENT - STEP 2

- **Assessment Test.** The college requires an Entry Skills Assessment of your skills in reading, English and math if you plan to register for a math or English course, or if you have never attended a college before. **Call 253.566.5158 for testing dates and times. Picture ID** is required and there is a **\$15.80 fee** which may be paid in one of the following ways:
  - By telephone. If you are using a major credit card, you may call 253.566.5011 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
  - In person. Stop by the Cashier's Office in Building 11 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday (campus is closed on Fridays during the summer).
- **Transcript Review.** If you have completed classes at another college, we may be able to determine your skill level by reviewing your college transcript (official or unofficial copies may be used for this purpose). **You may provide your unofficial transcript in one of the following ways:**
  - By Fax at 253.566.6011 (Be sure to put your TCC Student ID Number on the transcript.)
  - In person. Bring your unofficial transcript to the Assessment Office in Bldg. 7 (**new location**).

## ORIENTATION - STEP 3

In this **group orientation session**, the online registration feature will be demonstrated, new and readmitting students will learn what it takes to get started on an educational path, and will meet other students. Please bring your assessment scores, class options, and your questions. A follow-up appointment for educational planning can be set up if desired.

- **New students** (except those who have earned a college degree or attended another college for more than one year) must attend a New Student Orientation and Advising session. Reserve your seat at an on-campus orientation session by signing up online at [www.tacomacc.edu](http://www.tacomacc.edu) (select Student Resources, then under Choices, select New Student Orientation, then click on Signup for On-Campus Orientation), or call 253.566.6091.
- **Readmitting students** who have not attended TCC for one year or longer, are advised to attend an on-campus orientation or complete the online orientation if

an on-campus session does not work for you. Go to [www.tacomacc.edu](http://www.tacomacc.edu) (select *Student Resources*, then under *Choices*, select *New Student Orientation*) or call 253.566.6091.

- **An Online Orientation is available for distance learning students.** If you are planning to enroll in online courses only, you may complete the Online Orientation . After completion of the online orientation, distance learning students (and readmitting students who have completed the online orientation) may email the advisor at [online@tacomacc.edu](mailto:online@tacomacc.edu) for online advising and registration information. Or, feel free to stop by the Counseling and Advising Center at our new location in building 7.
- **Winter quarter dates.** Winter quarter classes begin January 5 and end on March 16 (final exams are held March 17-20).
- **Textbooks.** Textbooks may be purchased in the bookstore. To purchase books online, go to <http://tacomaccbooks.collegestoreonline.com/>.
- **Parking and Student ID card.** Once you are registered into classes, you may stop by the Parking/Student ID Office in Bldg. 18 to pick up your parking sticker and to obtain your Student ID card. Call 253.566.5173 for hours.
- **Class locations are subject to change--important.** Because class locations are subject to change at the last minute, you should **print a copy of your class schedule the evening before classes begin**. Go to <http://www.tacomacc.edu/currentstudents/myeservices.aspx> and click on *My Class Schedule*. Be ready to enter your Inquiry PIN# (this is your 6-digit birthdate until you change it).

#### TUITION AND FEES - STEP 4

- **Winter quarter tuition and fees are due by December 29.** Tuition will be applied *electronically* for students who have been awarded a financial aid grant or scholarship. Students receiving other tuition assistance should contact the Cashier's Office at 253.566.5011 or stop by Bldg. 11. Classes that have not been paid will be dropped to allow other students an opportunity to enroll. **Note:** If you are unable to pay tuition by the tuition deadlines, you may stop by the Enrollment Services Office in Bldg.7 and ask for a payment extension. **FACTS- a tuition payment plan-is available to students . For more details, go to [www.tacomacc.edu/currentstudents/automaticpaymentplan.aspx](http://www.tacomacc.edu/currentstudents/automaticpaymentplan.aspx)**
- Tuition may be paid by personal check, money order or credit card at the Cashier's Office in Building 11 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (closed on Fridays during the summer). If you are using a major credit card, you may call 253.566.5011 to pay by telephone. Tuition can also be paid as part of the online registration process, or by visiting the online payment form.
- Students enrolling with a SPACE AVAILABLE WAIVER --**staff, state employees, senior citizen (60 years or older), or SPRUCE** may not register until the date identified under the conditions of the applicable waiver. If a student registers prior to the allowed date, the waiver will not apply to the student's tuition calculation. For more information, call 253.566.5325.

## Bates Technical College

Bates operates with a continuous enrollment policy. In most programs, students are admitted as openings occur. Persons over 16 may register subject to the conditions of the Bates enrollment/registration policy. **Information for International Students** is available on the International Programs site.

**Online Registration** is available for Extended Learning, Home & Family Life, Teacher Preparation, Paraeducator Training, or Online Courses for new and continuing students.

### **COMPASS / ASSET**

All students registering in career education programs must take COMPASS. (Assessment Center) This college computerized adaptive testing system assesses student skills in reading, writing, and mathematics and helps promote student success. Results determine placement in the 100-level Related Instruction classes (communications, human relations, and math) and in developmental and basic skills courses in mathematics, reading, and writing. Students are required to take classes based on COMPASS placement scores. Comparable ASSET scores may be used in lieu of COMPASS scores.

### **Full-time Student**

Full-time students attend classes from six to eight hours each school day, depending on the program. The school year is 11 months, with three 60-day quarters: Fall, Winter, Spring; and a 34-day or seven-week Summer Quarter. Most classes are held from 8:15a to 3:00p, Monday through Friday. All students pay a non-refundable application fee when registering. Students may register any weekday, and enter the program on Monday, providing there is a program opening. If a class is full, a student may be placed on a waitlist if the non-refundable application fee has been paid. See How To Get Started.

Students applying for entrance into a health sciences program (Dental Assisting, Dental Lab Technician, Denturist, Practical Nursing), must submit a high school transcript to the Registrar's Office.

**For more information, call 253.680.7002.**

## Clover Park Technical College

Applying for Admission

Admissions applications are available at program orientations, at the Admissions counter, in Student Records, online and in the Advising/Counseling office. There is a \$43.33 non-refundable fee due at the time the application is submitted.

### **Eligibility**

All members of the community are eligible for admission to Clover Park Technical College if they:

Are competent to profit from the curricular offerings of the College; and

Are eighteen years of age or older; or

Are a high school graduate (diploma or GED certificate); or

Have applied for admission under the provisions of Running Start, Elective High School, or other local enrollment option programs.

Some programs have additional entrance requirements which can be found in the program description section of this catalog.

### **Assessment**

Students entering technical programs, which have Core Academic classes, are required to take a COMPASS (Computerized-Adaptive Placement Assessment) test. COMPASS will assess student's current levels in Reading, Writing and Math skills. The assessment results are used to place students at the proper academic level for Math, English, and Psychology. Compass is un-timed and generally takes about 2 hours to complete. There is a non-refundable fee of \$16.82 to test. Pay the cashier in Building 17 Room, 102 then take your receipt to the Assessment Center in Building 17, Room 210 to test.

COMPASS is conducted on a drop-in basis. No appointment is necessary. Contact admissions at 253.589.5678, Advising/Counseling at 253.589.5548 or visit the college to obtain a bi-monthly testing schedule and sample test.

Assessment scores are valid for a period of 2 years. If an assessment test has been taken at another college or agency the results can be placed on file at the Assessment Center and evaluated by Advising/Counseling in lieu of retaking the test.

Students without a High School Diploma or GED are required to complete the entire Assessment test in one sitting and must wait 90 days prior to any retesting.

### **Program Information Sessions**

#### **ATTEND A PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAMS OF INTEREST.**

Program Information Sessions are normally held at 3:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. In most cases, Program Information Sessions are held in the facility or classroom where the program is taught.

During the Program Information Session, faculty will provide information about what is

taught in the program, what fees are required, what books and supplies are needed, the job outlook and employment information. Faculty will discuss program entrance requirements and prerequisites, and an estimate of the next available start date