

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Application Components

- Common Application: A standard application available at www.commonapp.org that is accepted by over 500 selective colleges in lieu of their own form. It saves time and has no impact on admissions decisions. Check the website for supplemental forms.
- Grade Point Average (GPA): An indicator of the student's overall scholastic performance. The GPA is calculated by multiplying the credits by the quality point equivalent for each grade; the sum of the quality points is then divided by the sum of the attempted credits. For more information regarding computation of the GPA, refer to Verona High School's Curriculum Bulletin.
- Transcript: Official record of high school or college courses. Includes final grades only.
- Early Decision Policy: Policy by which a student must apply to a college early in the fall and the college replies usually around December or January. If the student is accepted, he/she is **obligated by contract to attend**.
- Early Action/Early Notification Policy: Policy whereby a student will be notified of a college's decision within a set period of time providing the application is received in the admissions office by a specific date. These dates tend to parallel those of Early Decision. If accepted, the student is **NOT** obligated to attend.
- Rolling Admissions: A number of institutions review admissions applications on a continuing (rolling) basis. Acceptance decisions are made shortly after completed applications are received.
- Restricted/Single Choice Early Action: An early choice that is not binding upon a candidate, but prohibits a student from applying to any other college under an Early Action or Early Decision program.
- Regular Decision: The application process in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified date and receives a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.
- Open Admissions: The policy of some colleges of admitting virtually all academic high school graduates with minimal attention to high school grades and admission test scores. County Community Colleges are an example.
- Priority/Preferred: The admissions office sets internal deadlines to gauge the number of its applicants, and to give scholarship consideration. The application is often divided into sections with a separate deadline for each section (i.e. a "Priority" or "Preferred" deadline date, along with a Regular Decision, Rolling, or Early Action deadline date).

Application Results

- Accepted: A particular college offered the applicant admission. Deposits to confirm attendance must be sent by May 1st.
- Deferral: The term applies to applications for Early Action or Early Decision that are pushed back for consideration with the regular application pool.
- Waiting List (or Waitlist): A list of applicants to a particular college who are not admitted in the regular decision pool, but who may be considered if space is still available after admitted students have indicated whether or not they will attend.
- Denied: A particular college did not offer the applicant admission.

Financial Aid

- **CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE:** A form used by the College Scholarship Service (CSS), the financial aid division of the College Board, to collect information about the student's total family income, assets and expenses. From this information the CSS prepares an analysis (a personalized Profile of the family's potential contribution toward college expenses). Many colleges/universities use the Profile to award nonfederal private student aid funds. The application process for the Profile can begin in September.
- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** A form required to apply to all Federal and New Jersey financial aid programs. Some colleges also use this form to determine financial aid to prospective students. This should be done online and must be completed after January 1st of the student's senior year (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>).

Standardized Testing

- **ACT/CEEB/SAT School Code Number:** 311-550
- **ACT:** The majority of colleges will accept this test in lieu of the SAT. This test measures student learning in four different areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. There is an optional writing section that most colleges require.
- **SAT:**
 - o **SAT I: Reasoning Test:** This test measures critical reading, critical writing and mathematical reasoning skills and abilities that have been developed over time, both in and out of school.
 - o **SAT II: Subject Tests:** There are over 20 one-hour subject tests offered by College Board that attempt to measure student academic achievement. These tests fall into five general Subject areas: English, History, Mathematics, Science, and World Languages. Check the website (www.collegeboard.com) for details.
- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):** This test is used to demonstrate proficiency in English and is divided into four sections: listening, structure, reading, and writing. This test is often taken by international students or by students whose primary language spoken at home is something other than English. This is internet-based testing. For more information check the website: www.ets.org/toefl.