

Speak the Language: College Admissions

If you're not familiar with the college admissions process, it probably seems like it has a language all its own. To help you learn the lingo, here are definitions of some common college admission terms.

- ▶ **Acceptance Rate:** The percentage of applicants a college accepts for admission.
- ▶ **Accreditation:** Certification that a college meets the standards of a state, regional, or national association.
- ▶ **Candidates Reply Date Agreement (CRDA):** This agreement, sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, states that in order to allow students to consider all their college options, students have until May 1 to accept any college's offer of admission.
- ▶ **Common Application:** Standardized application forms accepted by many colleges. After you fill out the Common, Coalition, or Universal Application, you can send it to any college that accepts it as the institution's own application.
- ▶ **Competitive College:** A college with a rigorous, highly selective admissions process. Competitive colleges typically admit fewer than 25 percent of applicants.
- ▶ **Deferred Admission:** A student's option to defer an offer of admission for one or more terms.
- ▶ **Fit Factor:** A desired characteristic of the college experience that you are seeking; a characteristic you wish to research as you assess potential colleges.
- ▶ **Holistic Admissions:** A qualitative and quantitative selection process that relies on context from the student's family, educational, geographic, and other experiences.
- ▶ **Personal Statement:** Sometimes referred to as a college application essay, personal statements are essays that give admissions officers insights into your character, personality, and motivation.
- ▶ **Reach School:** Schools that typically accept students with higher GPAs or stronger academic rigor.
- ▶ **Retention Rate:** The percentage of students who return to a college for their sophomore year. An indicator of student satisfaction and success.
- ▶ **Likely School:** Schools that you're excited about and feel confident in your chance of admission.
- ▶ **Student-Faculty Ratio:** The number of students at a college compared to the number of faculty. Some colleges see this as an indicator of class size and professor accessibility, but a lower ratio doesn't guarantee either. For a true indication of class size and professor accessibility, speak with students and professors at that college.
- ▶ **Supplemental Material:** Items you include with your college application to provide more information about your talents, experiences, and goals. Materials could include work samples, additional essays, or art portfolios. Verify if a college welcomes (or requests) these materials before sending.
- ▶ **Target School:** Schools with students whose GPA and rigor of high school courses are similar to yours. A bit more competitive institution where you are possibly admissible.
- ▶ **Transcript:** A record of classes you have taken and the grades you received. Usually, you must provide an official high school transcript with your college application.
- ▶ **Waitlist:** A list of students a college may eventually decide to admit if space becomes available.

College Greenlight Fit Fact: More than half of all students enrolling said a "very important reason" for going to college was "to find my purpose in life." Go to bit.ly/greenlight-student today to see which colleges match your fit factors. It's free and easy!