

## Glossary of College Terms

**ACT and SAT:** American College Test and Scholastic Aptitude Test. Both tests are designed to measure a student's level of knowledge in basic areas such as math, science, English, and social studies.

**Advanced Placement (AP):** College-level courses offered in high schools for which students pay a fee to take the exam, (Grades on a scale of 1 to 5), Scores of 3 and above may be eligible for credit standing at many colleges.

**Associate Degree:** Granted upon the completion of a program of at least two years but less than four years of full-time equivalent college work, requires a completion of a minimum of 60 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

**Award Letter:** Notification of financial aid award, lists the types and amounts of aid the student is eligible for

**Bachelor's Degree:** Undergraduate degree offered by four-year colleges and universities, complete a minimum of 120 credit hours

**Credit Hour:** A unit of measure that represents an hour of instruction that can be applied to the total number of hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree, diploma, certificate or other formal award.

**Developmental Courses:** Classes numbered below 100 level, these classes are not considered in determining a student's SAP status, students may take a maximum of 30 developmental credit hours

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC):** Amount determined by a formula a student and family are expected to contribute toward the student's education, EFC is used to determine student's financial need and aid eligibility

**FASFA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the only application used by the federal government to award federal student financial aid. [www.fasfa.ed.gov](http://www.fasfa.ed.gov)

**Fees:** Additional charges not included in the tuition

**Financial Aid:** Made available from grants, scholarships, loans, South Carolina lottery tuition assistance and part-time employment from federal, state, institutional, and private sources, awards from these programs may be combined in an "award package" to meet the cost of education

**Full-time enrollment/Part-time enrollment:** Full-time student is enrolled in 12 or more credit hours a semester, Part-time student is enrolled in less than 12 credit hours

**GED:** General Educational Development, high school equivalency diploma

**Grade Point Average (GPA):** Equivalent of students average for curriculum course work, found by adding the total grade point values for all courses and dividing by the total number of credits attempted during the same time period

**Hybrid classes:** One that combines online learning and face-to-face instruction

**Junior/Community College:** A two-year institution of higher education, course offerings generally include a transfer curriculum with credits transferable toward a bachelor's degree at a four-year college and an occupational or technical curriculum with courses of student designed to prepare students for employment in two years.

**Major:** Student's chosen field of study, usually requires the successful completion of a specified number of credit hours

**Minor:** Designated as a specific number of credit hours in a secondary field of study.

**Online classes:** Meet via computer, through an online learning management system

**Placement Testing:** Ensure that you get started in the right classes for your academic background and your program, if your test scores indicate that you need additional preparation before you enter classes that count toward your program you may need to take one or more developmental courses.

**Private institutions:** Rely on income from private donations, from religious or other organizations and student tuition

**Public Institutions:** Receive funding from the state and other governmental entities and are administered by public boards

**Student Aid Report:** List all of the answers provided on FAFSA, will contain individual's EFC

**Tuition:** Amount paid for each credit hour of enrollment, does not include the cost of books, fees, or room and board

**Verification:** Process required by federal regulations used to validate the accuracy of information and data reported on the FAFSA and/or for resolving conflicting information in a student's financial aid record