

## College Planning Glossary of Terms

**Academic Reference** – A letter of reference written by a teacher in one of the core subject areas of math, science, English, foreign language or social sciences.

**ACT** (*American College Testing*) – A college entrance test that measures English, math, social studies and natural science skills, with an optional writing section.

**Admissions Counselor** – A member of the college admissions office staff that advises and interviews prospective students.

**AP** (*Advanced Placement*) – College level courses offered to students. Students may take an AP exam after completing the required course to determine eligibility to receive college credit at the college they attend.

**Barrons** – The name of a publisher that indexes colleges according to degree of admissions competitiveness.

**CEEB#** – (**AMSA's CEEB# is 221349**). The College Entrance Examination Board maintains a numbered registry of high schools, colleges, college majors, scholarship programs and test centers.

**Class Rank** – A numerical designation of where a specific student stands in relation to the total number of students in their class as determined by GPA (i.e. 182 out of 342).

**College Board** – A not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. College Board produces the PSAT, SAT and AP exams and the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. See [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**Common Application** – An internet based application that is utilized by a growing number of member colleges and universities.

**CSS Profile** – A financial aid form that is completed in the senior year and is required by some private colleges and universities. CSS Profile is accessed through College Board and a fee is required to submit the form to colleges.

**Early Action** – An application made to a college under an early deadline. It is non-binding, meaning that if accepted, the student is not bound to attend and may apply to other colleges if desired.

**Early Decision** – An application made to a college under an early deadline. It is binding, meaning that if accepted, the student is bound to attend that school and must withdraw all other applications.

**FAFSA** – (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*) – A financial aid form that is required by most colleges and universities. It is accessed through the government’s website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). There is no charge to submit this form to colleges.

**Financial Aid** – *There are several types of financial aid.*

**Pell Grants** – Federal funds that are free money. They do not have to be repaid.

**Stafford Students Loans** – Federal funds that need to be repaid by the student.

**Work Study** – Money that the student earns while being employed on campus.

**PLUS Loans** – Federal funds that are repaid by the parent.

**GPA** (*Grade Point Average*) - A quantitative average of a student’s grades and course levels over their high school career. Weighted GPA takes into account the difficulty level of a course and gives a higher weight to Honors and AP courses.

**John & Abigail Adams Scholarship** – An award of free tuition to a Massachusetts public college or university based on MCAS scores.

**Kaplan** – A for-profit test preparation company. [www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)

**Mid-Year Report Form** – A part of the Common Application that the student completes and submits to their Guidance Counselor. The counselor then provides an update of the student’s midyear grades and progress, and submits it to the requested colleges and universities.

**Naviance** – An internet based software program that is part of AMSA’s College and Career Planning Curriculum. It is utilized by students to better understand their learning style and personality type including strengths and challenges, to investigate career interests and options, and to aid in college planning.

**NCAA Clearing House** – An initial eligibility clearinghouse where student athletes must register if they wish to play sports at a Division I or II college or university.  
[www.ncaaclearinghose.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghose.net)

**Parent Response Form** – An internet based form that is completed by AMSA parents of 11<sup>th</sup> graders to give the student’s Guidance Counselor additional personal information regarding the student. This personal information is invaluable to counselors during the college application process. Parents will be asked to complete this form in the spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and can access the Parent Response Form through their child’s Naviance account.

**Petersons** – An internet and print based college exploration and test preparation service.  
[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

**Princeton Review** – An internet and print based college exploration and test preparation service.  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

**PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test)** – A test usually taken in the fall of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade that estimates future SAT results. The Score Report is helpful in identifying areas that may need further practice. When taken in the junior year, it is the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Rolling Admissions** – A college application process where there is no “hard” deadline date for accepting admissions applications (i.e. March 15<sup>th</sup>). Applications are usually accepted until the freshmen class is full.

**SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test)** - A college entrance exam usually taken in the spring of junior year that is separated into reasoning and subject tests.

**Reasoning Test** – Measures critical reading, mathematical and writing abilities up through 3 years of high school.

**Subject Test** – Required by some colleges that may request a certain number of tests in specific areas of study. Students should check with colleges of interest to determine if subject tests are required for admission.

**School Report** – A form required by colleges in the admissions package where the student completes basic information and senior year courses. It is then given to the Guidance Counselor to complete evaluative information on the student.

**School Profile** – A document, produced by individual high schools, that accompanies a student’s transcript. It provides an overview of the community demographics, graduation requirements, mean SAT scores, AP course offerings and test scores, and courses of study offered. The school profile gives the admissions personnel a complete picture of the school and its students.

**Senior Activity Survey** – A written resume of a student’s extra-curricular activities including athletics, clubs, music and drama, school publications, student government, honors and awards, community service and work experience. This survey is accessed through the student’s Naviance account and is invaluable to the counselor during the college application process.

**Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery** – An award of a tuition waiver to Massachusetts public colleges and universities based on MCAS performance and additional requirements as outlined in the program materials. [www.osfa.mass.edu/default.asp?page=koplik\\_waiver](http://www.osfa.mass.edu/default.asp?page=koplik_waiver)

**TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)** – An internet based exam required by many colleges as an admissions requirement for students who do not speak English as their primary language. [www.ets.org/toefl/](http://www.ets.org/toefl/)

**Transcript** – An official document summarizing the courses taken while at AMSA and the grades received from grades 9 through 12.