Frequently Used Terms in College
Compliments of the Office of Admissions and Records
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
(361) 825-2624 or 1-800-4TAMUCC

Academic Advisor-help you select the correct courses to take & other academic problems you may have.

Acceptance/Admission-the status granted to an applicant who meet the requirements of the institution.

ACT and SAT-These letters stand for the American College Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test. They are designed to measure a student’s level of knowledge in basic areas such as math, science, English and social studies.

Alternative Admission-Those students who do not meet regular admission requirements may be considered under the Alternative Admission Procedure. Students admitted under Alternative Admission may be subject to specific enrollment conditions established by the university.

Application-is the process by which a prospective student submits the required forms and credentials to his/her chosen institution. Application criteria may include one or more of the following: previous academic records, test scores, interviews, recommendations, and other information provided by the applicant.

Associate’s Degree-is granted after two years.

Bachelor’s Degree-is received after four years.

Business Office-The Business Office is responsible for all financial transactions of the institution. It may also be called the Bursar’s Office on some campuses.

Catalog-College catalogs provide all types of information parents and students need to know about a school. For example: the institution’s history and philosophy, policies and procedures, its accreditation status, courses of study, degrees and certificates offered, physical facilities, admission and enrollment procedures, financial aid, student life activities, etc.

Class Rank-Is the student’s placement in the class according to their academic standing.

CLEP-(The College Level Examination Program) can be administered to students who desire to obtain college credit by taking proficiency tests in selected courses. If the student scores high enough on the test, college credit can be awarded. There is a charge for each test taken.

Texas Common Application-a general application form supported by public colleges in Texas.

Concurrent Enrollment-a high school senior enrolled at a university who meet certain requirements.

Credit-at a college is determined by the number of class hours each course meets per week, per term.

Curriculum-classes that are outlined for completion of a program of study leading to a degree or certificate

Degree-is a title awarded by an educational institution to signify the completion of a program of study. There are three basic types of degrees: Associate, Baccalaureate or Bachelor’s, Graduate Masters or Doctorate.

Degree Requirements-those requirements prescribed by other institutions for completion of a program of study are generally termed degree requirements. Requirements may include a minimum number of hours, required GPA, prerequisite and elective courses within the specified major, and/or minor areas of study.

D.O.B.-Date of Birth

Dormitory-student housing; these may also be called “residence halls.” Colleges offer many options in living arrangements: single rooms, doubles, suites, apartments, single-sex and special interest housing.

Enrollment-this is the procedure by which students choose classes each semester. It also includes the assessment and collection of fees.
**Extra-Curricular Activities**-These are non-classroom activities that can contribute to a well-rounded education. They can include such activities as athletics, clubs, student government, recreational and social organizations and events.

**Faculty**-The faculty is composed of all persons who teach classes for colleges.

**Fees**-additional charges not included in the tuition. Fees may be charged to cover the cost of materials and equipment needed in certain courses, and they may be assessed for student events, programs, and publications.

**Final Exams (Finals)**-Tests that are taken the last week of classes each semester. Final exams are given on specified dates that may be different than a regular class time, and are usually listed in each semester’s class schedule.

**Junior/Community College**-is 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.

**Major/Minor**-A major is a student’s chosen field of study. It usually requires the successful completion of a specified number of credit hours. A minor is a designated as a specific number of credit hours in a secondary field of study.

**Mid-Term Exams (Midterms)**-Are tests taken during the middle of each semester. Some classes may have only to tests, a midterm and a final.

**Student Identification Card (I.D.)**-is similar to a driver’s license. It has the students name and photograph. It is often required for admittance to functions sponsored by the college for identification.

**Syllabus**-Is an outline written by the professor that has important information about a course/class.

**Transcript**-shows courses taken, grades received, academic status, and honors received.

**Tuition**-is the charge for courses. Usually it is a flat rate, but at some colleges, it may be a set fee for each credit.

**New Student Orientation**-to assist in making the transition for incoming freshmen students as smooth and stress free as possible.

**Scholastic Probation**-An undergraduate student whose cumulative GPA falls below at 2.0 on academic work done at the University is placed on scholastic probation.

**SSN**-Social Security Number

**Suspension**-a student who is on scholastic probation and who fails to make a minimum GPA of 2.0 for any semester or term is placed on academic suspension, resulting in not being able to attend for a period of time.

**Dismissal**-consecutive suspensions result in dismissal from the University.

**Texas Success Initiative (TSI)**-The Texas Success Initiative is a state-legislated program that requires student to be assessed in reading, writing, and math skills prior to enrolling in a Texas public institution and to be advised based on that assessment. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has approved the ASSET, COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, and the THEA as acceptable assessment instruments for entering students. The assessments or the results of the assessment are not a condition of admission but a condition of registration to an institution. If a student’s score on any section of the THEA or alternative test is below passing, the student must enroll in appropriate developmental classes. The hours of the required developmental courses will count toward determining full-time status. A student can be exempt from the TSI, or qualify for a waiver. For additional information, contact the universities testing center.

**Undeclared**-an intelligent well-rounded student interested in many things, not quite ready to focus on one particular area, but wanting to continue their education while investigating the many possibilities that might lie ahead.

**Undergraduate**-refers to the years of college (usually four) leading to the Bachelor’s Degree