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| Word  **College Survival Vocabulary List** | Definition |
| Academic Year | Usually this refers to the September-June school year, but it can also refer to a July-June calendar. |
| Accreditation | The act of granting credit or recognition (especially with respect to educational institution that maintains suitable standards) |
| Add/Drop Period | Occurring at the beginning of the semester, this is a time period during which the student may make changes schedule changes without any academic or financial consequences. |
| Advisor: | A member of the college faculty or staff who assists students with planning semester schedules as well as their overall *programs* of study. Advisors may also help with career planning. |
| Associate’s Degree | It may take 2-5 years to achieve an Associate’s degree. In order to complete an Associate’s degree, you will need to complete 60 or more credits |
| Bachelor or Baccalaureate Degree | Often called a four-year degree program, a Bachelor’s degree is granted for completion of a course of study usually requiring 120-128 semester credits. You cannot get a bachelor’s degree at a two-year community college; however, you may be able to put your credits from your Associate’s degree towards a Bachelor’s degree. |
| Certificate | These vary in length, but often they are the quickest route to a credential. At most community colleges, you will need 20-30 credits to complete a certificate. |
| Competency | In “competency-based” courses or instructional *programs*, students must demonstrate certain skills and abilities (instead of just earning *passing* *grades* in classes) before moving from one level to the next or earning the final *degree*. |
| COA | (Cost Of Attendance)-Expected cost of attending a particular school. |
| CLEP | The College Level Examination Program is a group of standardized tests that assess college-level knowledge in several subject areas that are administered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities across the United States created by the College Board |
| Credit | A unit of measure for college work. Generally speaking, one credit hour represents one hour of classroom attendance each week for one semester. |
| Dean | An academic administrator or official at a school, college, or university, especially one with responsibility for students or faculty. |
| Degree | A rank conferred by a college or university and earned by a student who has successfully completed specified courses and requirements. |
| Dependent Student | Student who are reliant on parents for financial support and who do not apart from their parents. |
| Department | An organizational unit within a college or university, offering courses dealing with a particular field of knowledge, for example: the English Department |
| Elective | A course that is not required for a particular instructional program. Many programs require a certain number of elective credits. |
| EFC | Expected Family Contribution: The amount the federal government determines your family should be able to contribute to your education. |
| Final Exam / Final Exam Week | Final exams are held the last week of each semester for credit students. Normal class schedules often vary during this week. |
| Financial Aid Package | Generally a combination of grants, scholarships, loan’s and work-study, this is the total amount of financial aid you receive to help pay for college costs. |
| Full-time student | Generally refers to those students taking at least 12 credits per semester |
| Grants | A form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid! |
| Higher Education | Generally refers to 2 and 4-year colleges and universities. |
| Independent Student | For financial aid purposes, these are students who are not reliant of parents for financial support and live apart from their parents. |
| Independent Study | An arrangement that allows a student to earn college credit through individual study and research, usually planned with and supervised by a faculty member. |
| Internship | A supervised short-term apprenticeship or temporary job in a real-world setting closely related to a student’s related field of study. The student may or may not be paid, but earns college credit for work experience. |
| Loans | A form of financial aid that must be repaid with interest. |
| Loan Forgiveness | A program in which a borrower’s loans are paid off in exchange for paid work under conditions (duration, location, job description, etc) set by the institution that sponsored the loan. |
| Matriculation | The process of a student declaring his/her intention to pursue a particular degree or certificate at a specific college or university. |
| Major | Specialization in one academic discipline or field of study. |
| Part-time Student | Generally refers to those students who are not taking a full course load, but who are taking at least 6 credits per semester. |
| Pell Grant | A federal grant program to assist low-income students in attending institutions of higher education. |
| Practicum | A course that includes job-related activities and stress the practical application of theory in a field of study. |
| Prerequisite | A course that must be completed or a skill that must be demonstrated before a student can enroll in a more advanced course. |
| Scholarships | A form of financial aid that does not have to be repaid and is typically based on outstanding personal performance in an area such as academics, music, or athletics. |
| Syllabus | An outline plan for a particular class, including textbook requirements, class meeting dates, reading assignments, examination dates, and the instructor’s grading standards, etc. |
| Tuition and Fees | Tuition is a student’s basic payment towards the cost of instruction at a college or university. Most institutions also charge fees for laboratory equipment and materials, computer use, parking, and other miscellaneous costs. |
| Work-study | A type of financial aid which pays students to work part-time, often on campus, during the academic year. |