

# UCD Terminology

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## **TESTS & GRADES**

**ACT:** The **American College Testing** assessment is a curriculum-based test that has 4 components: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Each section is scored 1-36 and students also receive a single composite score of 1-36. There is also an optional writing section of the ACT.

**BMAT: Biomedical Admissions Test** is a biomedical admissions test that is required by some UK universities for a course in Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, or Biomedical Science.

**GPA: Grade Point Average** is the student's average grade, computed on a four point scale. An A counts as 4; B is 3; a C is 2; a D is 1, and an F is 0.

**IELTS: International English Language Testing** is an English test to assess the ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is the language of communication.

**LNAT: Law National Aptitude Test** is an aptitude test that is used by universities to help them assess and choose candidates for undergraduate law degrees.

**PSAT:** The **Preliminary SAT** is offered to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in October. The test is similar to the SAT (SAT I), but the scores are not reported to universities (for preparation and guidance only). The PSAT has 3 components: reasoning test (60 minutes), writing and language test (35 minutes), math test (25 minutes/ no calculator), math test (45 minutes/calculator).

**SAT:** SAT reasoning test has 3 sections: critical reading, math, and writing, each of which is graded on a 200-800 point scale. The writing section also includes a student-produced essay graded on a 1-6 point scale. *Note that the SAT content and context will change in spring 2016.*

**SAT II: SAT Subject Test** is a one hour exam offered in 20 different subjects. Students can take up to 3 tests on each test date.

**TOEFL:** The **Test of English as a Foreign Language** is an English test that universities require from international students. Registration information can be found at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) or <http://www.ets.org/toefl>

**UKCAT: UK Clinical Aptitude Test** is an aptitude test required by UK universities for Medical and Dental Degrees.

## **APPLICATION**

**Common Application:** (known as Common App) is a platform created each year for use by applicants to over 500 member colleges in the United States and abroad. Students complete

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the applications electronically; however, some universities will require supplementary items to be submitted before the Common Application is considered complete. For more information visit: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

**COPA: Cambridge Online Preliminary Application** is a required part of the application process for the University of Cambridge. It should be completed in addition to a UCAS application as both need to be submitted by the relevant deadline.

**Ivy League:** The term 'Ivy League' was officially used to describe an athletic conference involving the schools. Ivy League Schools are also called the 'Ivies' or 'Ancient Eight'. Here is the list: Brown University; Columbia University; Cornell University; Dartmouth University; Princeton University; Harvard University; Yale University; University of Pennsylvania.

**Letters of Recommendation:** colleges and universities may require up to 3 letters of recommendation for each applicant, 2 will be from teachers and 1 from a counselor. Teachers' and counselors' recommendations are best if they are confidential.

**OUAC: Ontario Universities' Application Center** is a platform that processes applications for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Ontario, Canada.

**Oxbridge:** a term used to describe the two oldest universities in Britain, Oxford and Cambridge. Students can apply to only one of these two (deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>)

**Personal Statement:** A personal statement is where you write about **why you want to study** your chosen degree, **who you are**, and **what you have done**. It should reflect your ambitions, skills, and experience to convince admissions that you are the right candidate for the course.

**UCAS Universities and Colleges Admissions Service:** is an independent platform that provides information, advice, and admission services for those applying for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

## DECISIONS

**Clearing:** This is the system operated by UCAS. It gives applicants who did not receive any offers or did not meet the required conditions another chance to find a university.

**Early Action:** This plan is similar to *Early Decision*, but is **non-binding**, meaning that although students receive their decisions early, they remain eligible to apply to other colleges and do not have to make a commitment until May 1. Students who apply for *Early Action* will submit their applications before the regular deadline and will be informed of their admission decision soon after (usually in January or February).

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**Early Decision:** Students apply to a single university and make a commitment to attend if admitted. In this case, students apply by an early deadline (usually November 1) and are notified of the decision by mid-December. *Early Decision* is considered a binding agreement; student must enroll in that university once admitted and cancel all other pending applications.

**FAFSA: Free Application For Federal Student Aid.** Every student who applies for federal financial aid must complete the FAFSA. The form is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Regular Admission:** Students usually apply between January 1 and March 15 of their senior year. Once student applications are reviewed, they will be either admitted or declined. Students usually receive their decision letters by April 15.

Students who are not admitted, but who meet the university's criteria for admission, may be offered a place on the wait list. Students on the wait list may be offered admission if a spot opens up.

**Rolling Admission:** This means that a college gives an admission decision as soon as possible after an application is submitted and does not specify a notification deadline. Usually, it is wise to apply early to such colleges, since applications are usually not accepted after the admissions quota has been reached.

## **COURSES & CLASSIFICATION**

**BA: Bachelor of Arts.** Undergraduate degree awarded for studying liberal arts/arts related subjects.

**BEng: Bachelor of Engineering.** Undergraduate degree awarded specially for engineering.

**BSc: Bachelor of Science.** Undergraduate degree awarded for studying a science related subjects.

**Foundation Year:** A foundation year is a one-year preparation course for international students whose high school qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to an undergraduate degree or whose first language is not English to access degree programs.

**Sandwich Year (industrial year):** A year offered to students to gain work experience or study/work abroad. Usually the sandwich year would form the third year of a four year course.