**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**to help you understand the college admissions process**

**AWARD LETTER**

A letter telling you what financial aid ( if any) your college is offering to you (includes types and amounts of aid offered, specific program information, etc.). You may choose to accept some or all of what is offered.

**CREDIT or CREDIT LETTER**

A unit of measurement institutions give for fulfilling course requirements. Most colleges require that you complete a certain number in order to graduate.

**COST OF ATTENDANCE**

Includes any cost associated with attending college: tuition and associated fees, room and board, books and supplies, etc.

Early Action: If you apply early action and are accepted, you may compare admissions and financial aid offers and wait to commit to the college until later in the year.

**EARLY DECISION**

If you apply early decision, you must attend the college or university if you are accepted and must withdraw any applications sent to other schools. You won’t be able to compare financial aid offers.

**ENROLLMENT STATUS**

Indication of whether you attend full or part time. In general, you must attend at least half time (or in some cases full time) to qualify for financial aid.

**EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION**

Amount students and their family are expected to contribute toward cost of attendance.

**FAFSA**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students must fill out the FAFSA to find out how much federal aid they are eligible to receive. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for more info.

**OPEN ADMISSIONS**

Students are admitted regardless of academic qualification.

**OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT**

Generally applies to students attending a public university outside of their home state. Out-of-state students may pay a higher tuition rate unless they establish legal residency for that state.

**ROLLING ADMISSIONS**

There is no set admissions deadline date; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled.

**UNDERGRATUATE STUDENT**

A student who has not completed a baccalaureate or first professional degree.