

## COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE TERMINOLOGY

**Advanced Classes:** Academic courses that challenge students' thinking in order to foster a higher level of understanding.<sup>1</sup>

**College Entrance Exam:** Any standardized test, such as the ACT, that assesses a student's proficiency in specific academic subjects, as well as college-level abilities in general. They are often an application requirement for colleges and universities.<sup>2</sup>

**College Prep Course:** A course that prepares students for college. These courses are usually more difficult than other general education classes. Many colleges have minimum application requirements that include a certain number of courses that students must complete successfully during high school.<sup>3</sup>

**Community College:** A two-year college that offers certificates and associate degrees. Attending a community college is typically more affordable than attending a university. A student who graduates from a community college with an associate degree can transfer to a public or private university to complete coursework for a bachelor's degree.

**Concurrent Enrollment:** Literally meaning "enrolled in two places at once," concurrent enrollment programs allow high school students to earn college or vocational credit toward a postsecondary certificate or college degree.<sup>4</sup>

**Extracurricular Activities:** This refers to any activities in which a student participates that are not high school courses or paid employment.<sup>5</sup> This might include sports, clubs, or class-related activities such as debate tournaments.

**First-Generation:** A first-generation student comes from a family where their biological parents did not complete a college degree.<sup>6</sup>

**GPA:** A student's GPA, or grade point average, is their average grade for all curriculum course work. Since a student's GPA is an average of all grades they receive, it functions as a measure of their academic achievement.

**Legacy:** A legacy student is given special admission status because of a familial relationship to a previous graduate of the college or university for which they are applying.<sup>7</sup>

**Oklahoma's Promise:** A scholarship program for Oklahoma students. Oklahoma's promise can help cover the cost of college tuition for students when they meet certain academic requirements.

**Postsecondary Education (PSE):** This term refers to education that takes place after high school. This might include college, career tech/vocational centers, trade schools, and military institutions.

**Prestigious:** A college or university that is prestigious tends to be selective in the students it admits. They can be challenging to attend due to the cost of the school, the low number of students accepted, or status as a private college or university.

**Private College/Private University:** A college or university that offers a variety of degrees for students to choose from. Private colleges and universities tend to cost more than public colleges and universities, but they often offer many private scholarships.

**Public College/Public University:** A college or university that offers a variety of degrees. Public colleges and universities are typically more affordable than private options.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup>Sztabnik, B. (2015, May 7). A new definition of rigor. Edutopia. <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/a-new-definition-of-rigor-brian-sztabnik>

<sup>2</sup>Learn.org. (2020). What are college entrance exams? [https://learn.org/articles/What\\_are\\_College\\_Entrance\\_Exams.html](https://learn.org/articles/What_are_College_Entrance_Exams.html)

<sup>3</sup>Naillon, B. (2019, May 10). General vs. college prep classes. The Classroom. <https://www.theclassroom.com/general-vs-college-prep-classes-5027.html>

<sup>4</sup>Colorado Mountain College. (2020). What is concurrent enrollment? <https://coloradomtn.edu/classes/concurrent-enrollment-high-school/faq/>

<sup>5</sup>Grove, A. (2019, August 30). Extracurricular activities for college admissions. ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-counts-as-an-extracurricular-activity-788878>

<sup>6</sup>Center For First-Generation Student Success. (2017). Defining first-generation. <https://firstgen.naspa.org/blog/defining-first-generation>

<sup>7</sup>Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Legacy. In Merriam-Webster.com dictionary. Retrieved July 6, 2020, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/legacy>