

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Kindergarten:

1. **college** - A four-year school for higher education where students can attend and receive a Bachelor's degree. Traditionally, colleges offered Bachelor's degrees, but today some offer Master's and doctorate degrees.
2. **campus** - the land on which the buildings of a college or university are located.

College Vocabulary by Grade level

First Grade:

1. **achieve** - to succeed and be successful, to reach personal goals
2. **career** - a field of work that requires special education, training, or experience.
3. **goal** - to establish a plan for yourself and then plan out the steps to take to succeed with that plan.
4. **graduate** - to fulfill the requirements to earn a degree, passing all classes, and completing all the coursework for the degree so that you can go through graduation and receive your diploma.
5. **university** - a school that includes a number of colleges within it and that offers degrees in many different fields of study.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Second Grade:

1. **major** - the subject or area of study in which a student concentrates. Undergraduates usually choose a major after the first two years of general courses in the arts and sciences.
2. **mascot** - the college or university symbol, such as the Oregon Ducks or the UC Berkeley Bears.
3. **professor** - a teacher at the college or university level.
4. **dormitory** - a building where students live on campus.
5. **room & board** - the fees charged by a college for a dorm room (or other living facility) and the meals eaten during the school year.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Third Grade:

- 1. advisor -** a person, sort of like an academic counselor, who is assigned to a college student to help the student with their course selection, the college plan for graduation, and anything else that the student may need help with.
- 2. alumni -** after a person graduates from a college or a university, that person is considered to an alumnus of that institution.
- 3. application -** a standard application for used by a number of colleges and universities across the country. Students must submit it to the college or colleges to which they want to apply.
- 4. bachelor's degree -** a degree awarded by a college or university awarded to an individual for completion of a 4-year program of study in the arts, liberal arts, or humanities.
- 5. Dean's list -** students whose grades are above a certain level for a semester at a time get on the Dean's List. It is an honor to achieve this status.
- 6. finals -** the end-of-course tests in college classes.

- 7. GPA** - Grade point average is a system used by many schools for evaluating the overall scholastic performance of students. Grade points are determined by first multiplying the number of hours given for a course by the numerical value of the grade and then dividing the sum of all grade points by the total number of hours carried. The most common system of numerical values for grades is: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, & F = 0.

- 8. grants** - money that is available from the government, a college, or a private organization to help students pay for their education. Money from grants do not have to be paid back.

- 9. loan** - money that is borrowed, usually from the state or federal government or from a bank, and that must be paid back with interest.

- 10. research** - to look up information about a college, university, or degree of interest

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Fourth Grade:

1. **community service** – work, usually done on a volunteer basis, that meets some need in a city or community. Colleges want to see on student applications that the student has participated in community service along the way.
2. **Extra-curricular activities** – activities in which students participate in addition to their classes. Extracurricular activities can be offered inside or outside of school. Colleges also look to see if students have been involved in extracurricular activities along the way.
3. **freshman** - a first-year student at a high school, college , or university.
4. **sophomore** - a second-year student at a high school, college, or university.
5. **junior** - a third-year student at a high school, college, or university.
6. **senior** - a fourth-year student at a high school, college, or university.
7. **quarter** - a school term lasting about 12 weeks.
8. **semester** - a school term lasting about 18 weeks.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Fifth Grade:

1. **AA Degree** - Associate degree is a degree awarded by community colleges upon completion of a course of study usually lasting two years.
2. **BA Degree** - a degree awarded by a college or university awarded to an individual for completion of a 4-year program of study in liberal arts, arts, or humanities.
3. **BS Degree** - a degree from a college or university awarded to an individual for completions of a 4-year program of study in the sciences.
4. **community college** - a two-year college that accepts students who are 18-years-old or have graduated from high school. community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning.
5. **FAFSA** - (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) which is a form completed by all applicants for federal financial aid.
6. **prerequisite** - a course that must be taken as preparation for a more advanced course in the same field. for example, introductory calculus would be a prerequisite for differential mathematics. College catalogs usually indicate whether a course has a prerequisite.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

6th Grade:

1. **college catalogue** - an official publication of a college or university giving information about academic programs, facilities (such as laboratories, dormitories, etc.), entrance requirements, and student life.
2. **core requirements** - core courses are the required courses within a degree and must be completed with a grade of a "C" or better.
3. **elective** - courses that are in addition to the core requirements of a program. Students choose electives based on a list specified by their program or in specific approved areas of interest.
4. **Master's Degree** - degree conferred by an institution of higher learning after the student completes a Bachelor's degree.
5. **PLAN** - often referred to as the "pre-ACT", it is a practice test for the ACT assessment exam. The PLAN test is offered in the sophomore year in high school.
6. **private university** - privately supported colleges and universities that do not receive funding support from their state government. University of Southern California (USC), Harvey Mu7dd College, Chapman University, and Mount St. Mary's College are examples of private colleges.
7. **transfer student** - a student who transfers from one college or university to another.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Seventh Grade:

1. **cost of attendance** – the total cost of attending a given college including tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation, personal expenses and all other necessary expenses associated with going to that college.
2. **course** - regularly scheduled class sessions of one to five or more credit hours per week during a term. A degree program is made up of required courses and elective courses and varies from institution to institution.
3. **CSU** - California State University System is the country's largest four-year university system with 23 campuses throughout just the state of California. CSU is part of California's three-tier public higher education system, which also includes the University of California (UC) system and the California Community Colleges system. CSU's are able to award the Master's degree and a limited number of doctoral degrees (PhD, EdD...)
4. **credits** - units that institutions use to record the completion of courses of instruction (with grade "C" or better) that are required for an academic degree. The catalog of a college or university defines the number and the kinds of credit hours that are required for its degrees.
5. **degree** - diploma or title given by a college, university, or professional school upon completion of a prescribed program of study.
6. **PhD** - the highest academic degree awarded by a university on students who have completed at least three years of graduate study beyond the Bachelor's and/or Master's degree and who have demonstrated their academic ability in oral and written examinations and through original research presented in the form of a dissertation.
7. **full-time student** – students enrolled in a specific number of course hours, usually at least 12 hours in a semester.
8. **PSAT** - a practice test for the SAT college entrance exam usually taken in the sophomore year of high school.

- 9. syllabus -** a printed outline showing the dates and subjects of lectures, reading assignments, projects, and the exam schedule.
- 10. UC -** University of California is a public research university system in the state of California. The UC is part of California's three-tier public higher education system, which also includes the CSU system and the California Community Colleges system. UC's are able to award the Master's degree and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).
- 11. Undergraduate -** two-or four-year programs in a college or university after high school graduation, leading to the associate or bachelor's degree.
- 12. ACT -** one of the most common college entrance exams often required for admission to many colleges. The ACT consists of four sections including math, science, English, and reading. The exam is usually taken for the first time in the spring of the junior year in high school.
- 13. SAT -** one of the most common college entrance exams often required for admission to many colleges. The SAT consists of verbal, math and writing sections and is usually taken for the first time in the spring of the junior year and again in the senior year, as needed.

College Vocabulary by Grade Level

Eighth Grade:

- 1. financial aid -** financial aid awards offered by colleges or universities after a student has been admitted and all necessary financial aid paperwork and the FAFSA have been processed.
- 2. general education -** "GE's" are classes taken at the freshman and sophomore levels, including English, math, science, history, and other requirements which some colleges require all students to complete for graduation.
- 3. higher education -** education at colleges, universities, junior or community colleges, professional school, technical institutes, and teacher-training schools.
- 4. Ivy League -** a group of long-established private colleges and universities located in the eastern part of the United States widely regarded as high in scholastics and prestige. The schools include: Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale, and University of Pennsylvania.
- 5. scholarship -** a financial aid award that does not have to be repaid. Scholarships are generally made based upon an applicant meeting certain eligibility criteria.
- 6. tuition -** the money an institution charges for instruction and training (does not include the cost of books).