



SEVEN OAKS

Classical School

POST GRADUATION COUNSELING OFFICE

College Application Glossary

Applications:

Associates, Bachelors, and Masters Degree - On many college applications you will be asked to choose which of these programs you are applying to. An Associates degree is most often a 2 year program, Bachelors refers to a standard 4 year college degree, and a Masters is earned AFTER a bachelors.

Class Rank - Refers to where your GPA stands in relationship to the other students. Seven Oaks DOES NOT rank students. You can simply mark “not ranked” on your college applications.

College Board - College Board is responsible for the SAT and AP exams. Students will register for the AP exams and can view all scores using their College Board account. SAT and AP scores must be sent to colleges directly from the College Board. Miss Holland is not legally able to send your scores.

CommonApp - The CommonApp is accepted by many colleges for admission. This is one application that can be completed once and sent to multiple colleges. Some colleges have additional requirements for their application such as essays, college questions, and recommendation letters.

Fee Waiver - Students who qualify for 21st Century Scholars automatically qualify for free college applications for colleges in Indiana. Other students can request a fee waiver for special circumstances from Miss Holland. Fee waivers are intended for families who would be severely limited from applying to college due to its cost. A fee waiver is not intended to be used to allow students to apply for an excessive number of colleges.

First Generation - A first generation college student is a student who will be the first person in their family to attend college. This may qualify you for additional scholarships.

Personal Essay - A personal essay is often 500 words or less and is an opportunity for you to let colleges know more about you. The personal essay is meant to illustrate your character in a way that is not apparent from your transcript or activities list. Strong personal essays talk about a challenge you’ve overcome in your life, an intellectual or philosophical question that intrigues you, or an explanation of one of your passions. You MUST have a teacher proofread your personal essay before submitting.

Recommenders / letter of recommendation - A letter of recommendation is an opportunity for teachers to share their experience of a student with a college. When choosing a recommender you will want to select a teacher with whom you have a positive relationship, who you believe will represent you well. You should ask your recommenders if they are willing to give a recommendation before emailing them the recommendation link. Give your recommenders AT LEAST 2 weeks to complete their letters and submit them. It is a good practice to write a thank you letter to your recommenders upon acceptance to a college.

School Profile - The school profile is a one page document that the college counseling office submits to colleges. It outlines the school's curriculum, grading practices, rigor in comparison to other schools, and other statistics.

Transcript - Your transcript is a record of your semester grades from every year of high school. Grades are only added to your transcript after a semester. If you apply for college during the first semester of your senior year, your transcript will only list grades up through the end of Junior year. It will also include a list of the courses you are currently taking, without a letter grade attached. Colleges require the counselor to send an updated transcript each semester of your senior year. COLLEGES CAN RESCIND AN OFFER if your grades drop.

Unweighted GPA - Your GPA is your Grade Point Average. Each letter grade is given a value of 0-4 points. Each semester we add all of the points together and divide them by how many classes you have taken. Your cumulative GPA is listed on your report card every quarter. Our point system is as follows

A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	64-66	1.0
D-	60-63	0.7
F	0-59	0.0

Weighted GPA - In acknowledgement of the comparative difficulty of our curriculum, we add 1 point to each of your core classes. The weighted GPA will be higher than the unweighted GPA. When filing your counselor recommendation, I submit your weighted GPA.

Financial Aid :

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You will need the adult that you live with to be able to complete this form, unless that adult's only income is via Social Security or another government program. The FAFSA is what helps colleges and the federal government determine what level of financial aid you qualify for. The FAFSA is changing this year. I am regularly receiving updates from the State to be able to better assist families.

Financial Aid Package - After you have been accepted to a college, you will receive a Financial Aid Package. These are not usually released until the Spring! Even if you are accepted in the fall/winter, you will have to wait to find out your financial aid reward. Colleges will offer financial aid based on your academic achievement and/or your level of need as determined by your FAFSA. This DOES NOT include any private scholarships you may apply for.

Merit Based Aid - Colleges offer Merit Based Aid to students who they believe have achieved a level of academic, musical, or athletic excellence that is worthy of reward. Most merit based aid is awarded to students who have achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Need Based Aid - Need Based Aid is determined by your family's income as reported on the FAFSA. Colleges will evaluate your FAFSA to determine what you qualify for. For example, the University of Evansville offers Free Tuition to students who have a family income of \$50,000/yr or less and have achieved a 3.25 GPA or higher.

Pell Grant - The federal government offers automatic aid to families based on their FAFSA. This award can be given every semester as long as you resubmit your FAFSA each semester.

Room and Board - The price of room and board is the cost associated with living on campus. This includes housing and meal plans. Most colleges require that students live on campus for at least their freshman year. 21st Century Scholars DOES NOT cover room and board. Most "full ride" scholarships cover tuition only and do not include room and board unless it is specified in the scholarship description. The average room and board cost per year is \$10,000.