Use the following terms and definitions in a variety of games and activities (including Wheel of Fortune, Pictionary, crossword puzzles, etc.) to introduce and reinforce information about college.

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| Types of colleges & degrees |
| **Apprenticeship**: Paid on-the-job training and classroom learning for a specific trade. |
| **Associate Degree**: An academic credential that can usually be completed in two years at a community college. |
| **Bachelor’s Degree**: An academic credential that can usually be completed in 4 years at a college or university. |
| **Career Pathways**: A series of classes and trainings from high school through community college that lead to a specific career. |
| **Certificate**: An academic credential that usually takes less than two years of college. |
| **College**: Any type of education or training after high school.  |
| **Community College**: A public institution that offers programs that last up to two years and are open to everyone with a high school diploma or GED. Students can earn a certificate, associate degree or take classes that will count towards a bachelor's degree. |
| **Degree**: An academic credential given by an educational institution for successfully completing a series of courses.  |
| **Distance Learning:** An educational program that takes place entirely online, also known as an online college. |
| **Doctoral Degree**: An academic credential in a specific field of study that can usually be completed in three to seven years after getting a bachelor’s degree. |
| **For-profit College**: An educational institution that ultimately seeks to make money for the owners and shareholders. |
| **Graduate School:** Advanced programs beyond a bachelor’s degree; these could include master’s, doctoral or professional degrees. |
| **Hybrid Program**: An educational program that takes place partly online and partly in person. |
| **Independent College**: An educational institution that is not supported by the state and is usually not-for-profit. Independent colleges may also be called private colleges, although those may be not-for-profit or for-profit institutions. |
| **License**: An academic credential that usually takes less than two years of college. Licenses may be required to practice a specific career. |
| **Master’s Degree**: An academic credential in a specific field of study that can usually be completed in less than two years after getting a bachelor’s degree. |
| **Online College:** An educational program that takes place entirely online, also known as distance learning. |
| **Postbaccalaureate Certificate**: Additional academic credential for students with a bachelor’s degree that want expertise in a particular field or are working towards entering graduate school. |
| **Private College**: An educational institution that is not supported by the state and may be not-for-profit or for-profit. Private, not-for-profit colleges may also be called independent colleges. |
| **Professional Degree**: An academic credential that allows recipients to practice a specific career and may require additional study after getting a bachelor’s degree. |
| **Public College**: An educational institution supported in part by the state; therefore, most public colleges have cheaper tuition rates for students from within the state. Also known as a state school. |
| **State School**: An educational institution supported in part by the state; therefore, most state schools have cheaper tuition rates for students from within the state. Also known as a public college. |
| **Undergraduate**: A college student who is working toward an associate or a bachelor's degree. |
| **University**: A four-year educational institution that usually offers both undergraduate (Bachelor’s) degrees as well as graduate (Master’s, Doctoral or Professional) degrees. |

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| Preparing for & applying to college |
| **Admission Requirements**: The qualifications necessary to be admitted to a college. These may include specific classes, grades or test scores. Also known as entrance requirements. |
| **ACT**: A college admission test usually taken during the junior or senior year that measures students’ skills and includes sections on math, reading, English and science. Younger students may also take the ACT Aspiretest that covers similar material. |
| **AP**: Stands for Advanced Placement; a rigorous class that students take in high school. Students can also take an AP Test in different subjects and potentially receive college credit for their performance. |
| **Application**: A form students must complete to apply for college admission, scholarships, or other financial aid. |
| **College Admission Tests**: Also known as college entrance exams, these are tests designed to measure students’ skills and help colleges evaluate how ready students are for college-level work. These include the SAT and the ACT and are usually taken the junior or senior year. |
| **College Fair**: An opportunity to meet representatives from many different colleges at one time. |
| **College Fit:** Choosing a college that fits a student’s academic, social and financial needs. |
| **CTE**: Stands for Career and Technical Education; classes that provide the skills and hands-on experience related to a specific career. |
| **Decision Letter**: The notice that a student has been accepted, waitlisted or denied admission to a particular college. |
| **Dual Credit**: A rigorous class where students can earn high school and college credit. |
| **Entrance Requirements**: The qualifications necessary to be admitted to a college. These may include specific classes, grades or test scores. Also known as admission requirements. |
| **Essay**: A short piece of writing that a college or scholarship provider requires students to submit as part of their application. It may also be called a personal statement. |
| **Extracurriculars**: Activities that students participate in; these may include sports, school clubs, jobs, volunteer work and more. |
| **GPA: Stands for Grade Point Average and is the average value of a student’s grades, usually on a 4.0 scale.** |
| **Letter of Recommendation**: A letter written by a teacher or other adult that shares a student’s strengths with a college or scholarship provider. |
| **Major**: Specialized field of study or subject area that a student chooses to study at college. |
| **Preview Days**: An opportunity for students who are interested in applying, or who have already been admitted, to visit a particular college. |
| **PSAT**: The Preliminary SAT is a test for students in grades 8-11 that covers similar material to the SAT. |
| **Residency Requirements:** The amount of time a student has to live in a state before he or she is eligible for in-state tuition prices and state aid. |
| **Resume**: A document that lists a person’s educational background, jobs and skills. |
| **SAT**: A college admission test, usually taken during the junior or senior year that measures students’ skills and includes sections on math, reading and writing. There are also additional **SAT Subject Tests** that students can take to showcase their achievements in a particular subject. |
| **Test Optional: Students are not required to submit College Admission Tests (SAT or ACT) with their application for admission to a college. Many colleges are now test optional.**  |
| **Transcript**: A copy of a student’s permanent record including classes taken and grades received. |
| **Transfer**: The move to a new college; for example, a student can transfer from a community college to a 4-year university. Also a noun, the student who transfers from one college to another. |
| **Waiver: A document that allows some students to not have to pay college application or admission test fees.** |

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| Paying for college |
| **Award Letter**: The document from a college that explains the types and amounts of financial aid offered and a deadline for accepting the award. Also known as a financial aid package. |
| **College Savings Plan**: Also known as 529 plans, these are investment accounts to help families save money for college. |
| **Cost of Attendance:** The total amount of college expenses before financial aid. This can include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation. |
| **CSS/Financial Aid Profile**: A financial aid application used by more than 400 colleges and private scholarship programs to award their financial aid funds. |
| **FAFSA Summary Submission**: The report sent after completing the FAFSA; be sure to review it to make sure the information is accurate. |
| **FAFSA**: Stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid; the form that most students complete in order to access financial aid including grants, scholarships, loans and work-study. Opens in December. |
| **FAFSA4caster**: A free financial aid calculator that gives you an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid. |
| **Financial Aid Package:** The document from a college that explains the types and amounts of financial aid offered and a deadline for accepting the award. Also known as an award letter. |
| **Financial Aid**: Money to help pay for college including grants, loans, scholarships and work-study. |
| **FSA ID**: A username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education websites including the FAFSA. |
| **Grants**: Need-based financial aid that is money from the state government, federal government or the college that does not need to be paid back. |
| **Individual Development Account**: A savings account for low-income students that provides matching funds for money they save for education. Also known as an IDA or matched savings account. |
| **In-state Tuition:** Residents pay lower tuition at public universities and community colleges than residents of other states because taxpayers help support these institutions. |
| **Loan Consolidation**: The process of combining one or more loans into a single new loan. |
| **Loan Repayment Plan**: The schedule of how much and how often students pay back their loans. This can be changed at any time for no charge. |
| **Loans**: Need-based financial aid that must be paid back. |
| **Matched Savings Account**: A savings account for low-income students that provides matching funds for money they save for education. Also known as an Individual Development Account or IDA. |
| **Merit-based Aid:** Financial aid given to a student based on achievement in academics, sports, or other areas. |
| **Need-based Aid:** Financial aid given to a student based on what the family can contribute to college costs. |
| **Net Price Calculator:** An online tool that gives a personal estimate of what it will cost to attend a specific college. Most colleges are required by law to post a net price calculator on their websites. |
| **Net Price**: What a student will actually pay for college after considering financial aid. |
| **Oregon Opportunity Grant:** Oregon's largest state-funded need-based grant program for students planning to go to college. |
| **Oregon Promise:** A grant program that covers most of the costs for eligible students who plan to attend one of Oregon's 17 public community colleges. |
| **ORSAA**: Stands for Oregon Student Aid Application; the form that eligible undocumented students complete in order to access state financial aid including the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise grant and some OSAC scholarships. Opens in December. |
| **OSAC:** Stands for the Office of Student Access and Completion; the agency in Oregon that processes applications for many different scholarships as well as the Oregon Promise program. |
| **Pell Grant:** Money for college from the federal government that does not need to be paid back; given to undergraduate students with financial need. |
| **Scholarships**: Money for college given by colleges or organizations for good grades, community service, athletic ability, or other unique abilities or personal qualities; merit-based. |
| **Student Aid Index**: Often abbreviated as SAI. This number is used to determine eligibility for different types of financial aid. |
| **Subsidized Loans**: Available to undergraduate students with financial need. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans while students are still in school at least part-time. |
| **Tuition Equity**: In-state tuition for undocumented students also known as "exemption from nonresident tuition and fees". |
| **Unsubsidized Loans**: Available to all undergraduate students. Students are required to pay the interest on unsubsidized loans even when they are in school. |
| **Work**-**Study**: Need-based financial aid that is a part-time job, often on campus, to help pay for college costs. |

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| College vocabulary & support services |
| **Admissions Office**: The department at a college that is responsible for reading college applications and making decisions about which students will attend. Representatives from the admissions office may also attend college fairs, visit high schools, give information sessions and tours and be a resource for students who are interested in applying or attending. |
| **Advisor**: A staff or faculty member at a college that can help you choose classes and a major and connect you to other academic support services. |
| **Branch Campus**: A smaller location of a college located at a distance from the main location. |
| **Bursar**: The person or office responsible for handling billing and payments for tuition, fees, housing and other related expenses. May also be called Cashier’s or Student Accounts Office. |
| **Campus**: The grounds and buildings of a college. |
| **Career Center**: The office at a college that helps students explore options for the future and includes helps writing resumes, conducting mock interviews and holding job fairs. |
| **Counseling Center**: Mental health support for college students located on campus. |
| **FERPA**: Stands for the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; protects the privacy of student’s identifiable information. Once students turn 18, only they have access to their educational records (not their parents). |
| **Financial Aid Office**: A college office that serves as a resource for students who need help paying for college costs. |
| **Midterms**: Tests and other assignments given during the halfway point of an academic semester or term usually covering all the knowledge learned until that point. |
| **Off-Campus Study:** The office on a college campus that helps coordinate student learning experiences in other countries, campuses or locations in the U.S. May also be called study abroad. |
| **Office Hours**: Set times to meet with professors and ask questions. |
| **Orientation**: Time during the summer or the beginning of the school year for new students to learn about a college and meet faculty, staff and other students. |
| **Placement Tests**:  A test in subjects like English or math to check the academic skill levels of entering students that allows the college to place each student in classes at the right level. |
| **Registrar**: The college official or office that helps students register for classes, transfer credits and maintain transcripts. |
| **Student Group**: Clubs, organizations and activities that are connected to a college. |
| **Student Health Center**: Basic health care for college students located on campus. |
| **Study Abroad:** The office on a college campus that helps coordinate student learning experiences in other countries, campuses or locations in the U.S. May also be called off-campus study. |
| **Support Services**: The people and offices on a college campus that are there to help students. Common support services include physical and mental health services, financial aid and academic tutoring. |
| **Syllabus**: An outline of a college course schedule, assignments and expectations. |