College Lingo

Term	Definition
A.A.	Associate of arts, earned at most two-year colleges
Associate's Degree	Degree awarded to graduates of a two-year community college (A.A)
ACT	American College Testing, measures aptitude in English, math, reading, and science reasoning
Advisor	School official assigned by the college, who helps you choose the right courses for your major
B.A. or B.S	Bachelor of arts or bachelor of science, earned at four-year colleges
Bachelor's Degree	Degree awarded to graduates of a four-year college – B.A. or B.S.
Credit Hour	Number of hours assigned to a specific class, usually related to the number of hours per week you are in that class
Course Load	The total number of credit hours taken in a semester
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid – application required for all types of financial aid
Fees	Charges that cover costs beyond tuition, including athletic activities, clubs, and special events
Financial Aid	Money available from various sources to help students pay for college
General Education Classes	Classes that give students basic knowledge on a variety of topics; usually required for college graduation
Grant	Type of financial aid that does not have to be repaid
Loan	Type of financial aid that must be repaid, typically after the student finishes school
Major	Your primary area of study, related to the job you want after graduation
Minor	A secondary field of study that requires fewer credits than a major
Pell Grants	Federal need-based grants that do not need to be repaid
Private University	University that is privately-funded, usually costing more in tuition. Examples near you include: Carson Newman College, Johnson University, Lee University, Lincoln Memorial University, Maryville College, and Tennessee Wesleyan College
Public University	University partially funded by the government, often called State schools or universities. Examples near you include: University of Tennessee Knoxville, East Tennessee State University, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, and Tennessee Tech University
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test, which measures mathematical and verbal reasoning
Scholarships	Need- or merit-based financial awards that typically do not need to be repaid
Syllabus	Description of a course that also lists dates for exams and assignments
Tennessee Hope Scholarship	Scholarship for Tennessee high school graduates to attend 2- or 4-year schools full-time. Minimum 21 ACT OR 3.0 GPA
Tennessee Promise Scholarship	Pays tuition at a 2-year community college or TCAT. Must attend full-time. Must also participate in a mentoring program and do 8 hours community service each semester the award is received.
Tuition	Amount of money that colleges charge for classroom instruction