Wherever your student is on their college search, it is important to remember the following terms. If you have any questions, please contact the U of M Office of Admissions by phone at 612-625-2008 or 1-800-752-1000, or reach out to one of our admissions counselors at [z.umn.edu/counselor](https://z.umn.edu/counselor). We are happy to explain terms and support you and your student on their college search.

### Key Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Factors</td>
<td>A student's educational history used by the University of Minnesota to review a student's application and determine if they are academically prepared to succeed in university-level classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>A college's response to an applicant to allow them to become a student of their college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions Counselor</td>
<td>Staff member of a college who supports students during their college search journey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Decision</td>
<td>A choice a college makes on whether to offer a student admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admit</td>
<td>A college has reviewed a student's application and agrees they are prepared to succeed at their school and extends an offer to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisor</td>
<td>A university staff member that helps students choose coursework and progress toward graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>Form and documents a student gives to a college to be considered for admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apply</td>
<td>The act of submitting an application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Fit</td>
<td>Phrase used to describe a school that fits a student's interests and goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Life</td>
<td>Experiences and opportunities students will have as a student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Search/Journey</td>
<td>Actions a student takes to find and look at colleges that interest them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commuter</td>
<td>A student who does not live on campus and walks, bikes, takes public transportation or drives to campus to attend classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation Fee</td>
<td>A payment a student makes to confirm their enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirm Enrollment</td>
<td>Action a student takes to let a school know they will be attending. This action includes paying a non-refundable confirmation fee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Context Factors</td>
<td>A student's personal background information used by the University of Minnesota to review a student's application. These factors can include a wide variety of topics like after-school clubs, sports, family responsibilities, job experience, volunteering and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of Attendance</td>
<td>The total cost of going to college, including housing, books, transportation, fees, and other expenses a student typically has while going to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>Classes a student takes to complete a requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defer</td>
<td>A college's response to an early action applicant who has not been admitted yet because more information is needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deny</td>
<td>A college has reviewed a student's application and has decided not to admit them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Action Deadlines</td>
<td>The first deadline for applications which allows students to receive an early admission decision. The U of M has two Early Action deadlines. This decision is non-binding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA</td>
<td>Shortened name for Free Application for Federal Student Aid, a government form that calculates how much a student can afford to pay for college. This calculation is used by the University of Minnesota to award financial aid.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## KEY TERMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH TERM</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>Money in the form of loans, grants, scholarships, and work study to help pay for college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Package</td>
<td>Total amount of money a student receives to help pay for college. This includes money awarded from the FAFSA, and given by the university, in the form of scholarships and work study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>A student in their first year of college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Gopher</td>
<td>A nickname for University of Minnesota Twin Cities students, named after the school mascot, Goldy Gopher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holistic Review</td>
<td>Process used by the University of Minnesota to look at the academic and personal experiences a student shares on their application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Application</td>
<td>Actions a student takes to live in on-campus residence halls. This application is different from the admissions application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living Learning Communities</td>
<td>U of M housing arrangements where students with similar backgrounds and interests live near each other in residence halls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>A student's specialized focus of study. A major is required for graduation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minors</td>
<td>A student's second specialized focus of study. A minor is not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN DREAM Act</td>
<td>The MN DREAM Act provides benefits to undocumented students in Minnesota who meet specific criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Price Calculator</td>
<td>Online form where students enter information about themselves and/or their family’s finances to get an estimate on how much financial aid they may be awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>Actions a student takes after their admission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>A mandatory summer program that introduces students to the resources and opportunities at the U of M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Deadline</td>
<td>Deadline to complete the FAFSA to ensure notification is not delayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospective Student</td>
<td>A student who is interested in attending a college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reciprocity</td>
<td>Students attending the U of M from Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Manitoba, Canada. These students qualify for in-state tuition if they apply for reciprocity status.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Deadline</td>
<td>The final deadline for applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescind</td>
<td>A choice a college makes to cancel a student’s admission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Hall</td>
<td>Dormitories or other living quarters provided by the college</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>A person who lives in Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room and Board</td>
<td>Money a college charges for living and dining in a residence hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Reported Academic Record</td>
<td>The U of M requires students to report their test scores and high school grades on their application - which means they do not need to provide official documents until after they have been admitted. Please note: ACT/SAT test scores are not required for the 2021 application.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standardized Test</td>
<td>A test that measures a student’s understanding of a topic and their academic readiness for university-level classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Money a college charges for classes and use of on-campus resources. The amount a student pays depends on their financial aid and their in-state or out-of-state status.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U of M</td>
<td>Shortened name for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual Campus Tours</td>
<td>Online option for students to see campus without visiting a school in-person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waitlist</td>
<td>A college has placed a student on a list of other qualified students but has not admitted them yet due to space limitations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waive</td>
<td>Item or document not required for an application to be considered complete</td>
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