

# Programs *for* Education

College Selection & Admissions Advising



(978) 820-1295

## The College Alphabet Soup

Knowing what these abbreviations mean will help you when communicating with colleges and others involved in the college planning process. The **highlighted** ones are my own and may not be encountered elsewhere. But they are very important to know.

EFC ~ Expected Family Contribution (A misnomer, by the way)

**MFC** ~ Minimum Family Contribution

**RFC** ~ Realistic Family Contribution

FM EFC ~tells FAO what the federal aid eligibility is.

IM EFC ~ is the "rest of the story" and varies from college to college.

When a college says they meet "100% of demonstrated need" the definition of need is theirs...not yours.

COA ~ Cost of Attendance (Direct billable expenses tuition, fees room & board plus out of pocket expenses, books, supplies, personal expenses, computer etc) only a few colleges use a realistic number for financial aid purposes, however.

**BNP** ~ Brand Name Paralysis

FAO ~ Financial Aid Officer

RAC ~ Regional Admissions Counselor

WL ~ Wait List

LAC ~ liberal arts college

COOP ~ Co-operative University that includes one year of practical work experience in the student's major. Some four-year colleges are introducing a co-op year in certain majors. The degree is earned in five years.

ED ~ Early Decision (binding) Nov 1 or 15 ~ Student is committed to attend if accepted.

ED 1 ~ same as above; all other applications have to be withdrawn if accepted.

ED 2 ~ same as above but deadline is usually on January 1.

EA ~ Early Action (non-binding) Usually Nov 1 or 15 but student can wait until May 1.

ID - Interim decision (term used by some schools instead of Early Action)

SCEA-Single Choice Early Action (non-binding but can apply to only one early school)

RA ~ Regular Admission ...deadline varies from Jan 1 to Feb 15 or later.

Roll ~ Rolling Admissions...often used by state universities and a few privates.

FAFSA ~ Free Application for Federal Student Aid...only used by colleges using federal money, this applies to all but three private colleges in the country.

CSS Profile ~ the form you need to fill out for college based funds at some colleges.

ADCOM ~ Admissions Committee

STATS ~ a student's GPA, test scores, curriculum and extracurricular

ACT ~ Popular standardized test that correlates with the average high school curriculum in junior year. A few colleges will accept scores of 30 plus in lieu of SAT II

SAT ~ Reasoning Test developed by College Board

SAT II ~ Subject Tests...required by more competitive colleges.

GC ~ guidance counselor

CAS ~ college of arts and sciences

DI ~ demonstrated interest

*Eric Goodhart*

(978) 820-1295

[help@smartcollegeplanning.org](mailto:help@smartcollegeplanning.org)

[www.SmartCollegePlanning.org](http://www.SmartCollegePlanning.org)

