

## Common Data Set Definitions

All definitions related to the financial aid section appear at the end of the Definitions document.

Items preceded by an asterisk (\*) represent definitions agreed to among publishers which do not appear on the CDS document but may be present on individual publishers' surveys.

**\*Academic advisement:** Plan under which each student is assigned to a faculty member or a trained adviser, who, through regular meetings, helps the student plan and implement immediate and long-term academic and vocational goals.

**Accelerated program:** Completion of a college program of study in fewer than the usual number of years, most often by attending summer sessions and carrying extra courses during the regular academic term .

**Admitted student:** Applicant who is offered admission to a degree-granting pro









<p><b>Religious affiliation/commitment (as admission factor):</b> Special consideration given in the admission process for affiliation with a certain church or faith/religion, commitment to a religious vocation, or observance of certain religious tenets/lifestyle.</p>
<p><b>*Religious counseling:</b> One-on-one or group counseling with trained professionals for students who want to explore religious problems or issues.</p>
<p><b>*Remedial services:</b> Instructional courses designed for students deficient in the general competencies necessary for a regular postsecondary curriculum and educational setting.</p>
<p><b>Required fees:</b> Fixed sum charged to students for items not covered by tuition and required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does NOT pay is the exception. Do not include application fees or optional fees such as lab fees or parking fees.</p>
<p><b>Resident alien or other eligible non-citizen:</b> A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status (and who holds either an alien registration card [Form I-551 or I-151], a Temporary Resident Card [Form I-688], or an Arrival-Departure Record [Form I-94] with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status, such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian).</p>
<p><b>Room and board (charges)—on campus:</b> Assume double occupancy in institutional housing and 19 meals per week (or maximum meal plan).</p>
<p><b>Secondary school record (as admission factor):</b> Information maintained by the secondary school that may include such things as the student's high school transcript, class rank, GPA, and teacher and counselor recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Semester calendar system:</b> A calendar system that consists of two semesters during the academic year with about 16 weeks for each semester of instruction. There may be an additional summer session.</p>
<p><b>Student-designed major:</b> A program of study based on individual interests, designed with the assistance of an adviser.</p>
<p><b>Study abroad:</b> Any arrangement by which a student completes part of the college program studying in another country. Can be at a campus abroad or through a cooperative agreement with some other U.S. college or an institution of another country.</p>
<p><b>*Summer session:</b> A summer session is shorter than a regular semester and not considered part of the academic year. It is not the third term of an institution operating on a trimester system or the fourth term of an institution operating on a quarter calendar system. The institution may have 2 or more sessions occurring in the summer months. Some schools, such as vocational and beauty schools, have year-round classes with no separate summer session.</p>
<p><b>Talent/ability (as admission factor):</b> Special consideration given to students with demonstrated talent/abilities in areas of interest to the institution (e.g., sports, the arts, languages, etc.).</p>
<p><b>Teacher certification program:</b> Program designed to prepare students to meet the requirements for certification as teachers in elementary, middle/junior high, and secondary schools.</p>
<p><b>Transfer applicant:</b> An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission (including payment or waiving of the application fee, if any) and who has previously attended another college or university and earned college-level credit.</p>
<p><b>Transfer student:</b> A student entering the institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., undergraduate). The student may transfer with or without credit.</p>
<p><b>Transportation (costs):</b> Assume two round trips to student's hometown per year for students in institutional housing or daily travel to and from your institution for commuter students.</p>
<p><b>Trimester calendar system:</b> An academic year consisting of 3 terms of about 15 weeks each.</p>
<p><b>Tuition:</b> Amount of money charged to students for instructional services. Tuition may be charged per term, per course, or per credit.</p>
<p><b>*Tutoring:</b> May range from one-on-one tutoring in specific subjects to tutoring in an area such as math, reading, or writing. Most tutors are college students; at some colleges, they are specially trained and certified.</p>



Non-need athletic awards
Non-need federal grants
Non-need state grants
Non-need outside grants
Non-need student loans
Non-need parent loans
Non-need work
<b>Non-need-based self-help aid:</b> Loans and jobs from institutional, state, or other sources for which a student need not demonstrate financial need to qualify.
<b>Scholarships/grants from external sources:</b> Monies received from outside (private) sources that the student brings with them (e.g., Kiwanis, National Merit scholarships). The institution may process paperwork to receive the dollars, but it has no role in determining the recipient or the dollar amount awarded.
<b>Work study and employment:</b> Federal and state work study aid, and any employment packaged by your institution in financial aid awards.