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## November 2023

Seniors- File Early Decision/  
Early Action applications

Work on remaining college  
applications

Check College Board and ACT  
websites for testing opportunities  
in your area.

Underclassmen look for PSAT  
score release and review the  
report. Map out a plan for test  
prep with an advisor

## December 2023

Schedule spring SAT or ACT  
testing dates

Seniors- file any additional  
college applications before  
deadline dates

Enjoy your holiday break. Take  
some well earned time to be with  
friends and family.

## Determining The Strength Of A Department

When considering which schools to apply to, it is important to remember that different institutions specialize in different fields of study. Understanding the academic direction you'd like to pursue is a key factor in selecting your future college, as some majors may be stronger than others in a particular school, and vice-versa. Here are some pointers on how to determine the strength of a department at each college or university:

**Courses:** Look at how many undergraduate courses are offered through the department, as opposed to cross-listed courses from outside the department that still fulfill requirements. Are there courses dedicated to your department only as a way to ensure specialized time and attention is devoted to your major? Additionally, check if the department offers specializations and/or concentrations in the 3rd and 4th years. Research each concentration to see if it interests you. The availability of concentrations demonstrates the breadth and depth of the major.

**Funding:** Check to see if there are grants available for students to perform research within each department. If a department offers ample scholarship and grant opportunities, it not only reflects their budget, but also their commitment to allocating a portion of those funds to benefit students. Furthermore, research the sources of these funds (i.e. The National Endowment for the Arts or National Science Foundation). Certain foundations, due to their prestige, may

generate more funding for department amenities and grants. You can compare grant and award availability by searching for your desired college or university on <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>.

**Faculty:** Research the faculty members in your desired department. Feel free to research individual members and determine if their work and experience aligns with your interests. You can check the department's size to see if it consists of just a handful of members or a substantial team. It is also helpful to connect directly with the departments at various schools and see about setting meetings with faculty. This can give insight into the accessibility of faculty members and their willingness to make time for students. Finally, you may check professor reviews on <http://ratemyprofessor.com>.

**Publications:** Publishing work is difficult and takes a substantial amount of time and effort. Delving into this realm to see which faculty members within the department have research published may sound meticulous, but it is well worth your time to determine the reputation of the school's major and its professors.

Each department and each college or university is unique and possesses its own distinctive characteristics. Some may have strengths where others have limitations. It's important to weigh the pros and cons of each college and university's department in order to determine which is the best for your academic path.

### Career Paths for Viticulture and Enology Majors

#### · Enologist Positions May Include:

- *Cellar Worker*
- *Lab Technician*
- *Wine Maker*
- *Wine Consultant*
- *Wine Critic*
- *Fermentation Researcher*
- *Winery/Distribution Manager*

#### Viticulturist Positions May Include:

- *Field Worker*
- *Vineyard Manager*
- *Crop Researcher*
- *Pest Control Advisor*
- *Grower Relations Consultant*
- *Fruit Negotiant*
- *Agricultural Loan Officer*
- *Branding, Marketing, & Sales Manager*



## Focus on Majors: Viticulture and Enology

Few academic courses require mid-day sampling of wine, but majoring in viticulture and enology is an exception to that general rule. From climate considerations to soil quality, grape varieties, pest control, consumer market analysis, and, yes, winemaking and wine tasting, academic programs in viticulture and enology offer a wide range of educational and career opportunities.

Viticulture and enology are interdisciplinary programs that typically combine hands-on laboratory, fieldwork, scientific courses, and business and statistical classes. Viticulture involves the study of wine grape production. Enology incorporates the science of winemaking with the study of business courses that address wine marketing, distribution, and sales. This well-rounded major offers subject matter diversity, and a unique balance of academic and physical demands.

While a bachelor's degree may not be required to make wine, college programs prepare winemakers to leverage science when deciding how best to care for and harvest grapes. Viticulture involves optimizing the use and curtailing the costs of elements such as pesticides, fertilizers, water, energy, and labor. Enologists analyze wine compositions and monitor bottling control measures to ensure quality products. Related horticulture, botany, and crop and soil science courses help students understand the interaction between grape production and winemaking.

Over the next five years, the employment outlook across this broad field will increase. The wine industry boosted the American economy by \$176 billion in 2022. This market is expected to grow annually by 5.85% as wine is produced and sold in all 50 states.

Viticulture and enology are one of the few disciplines that begins with raw materials (grapes), which are made into products (wine) and sold to various consumers (business and marketing). Career opportunities span each of these three broad categories. Graduates may work in a winery, vineyard, a broker or retailer, a distributor or importer, or work in restaurant/hospitality industries.

The scope of a winemaker's role often depends on the type and size of the business. For example, vineyards are farms where grapes are grown while wineries are dedicated to the process of fermenting, aging, and filtering wine. Many wineries also have vineyards, but many independent vineyards only grow and sell grapes with little or no focus on winemaking. Wineries and vineyards can vary in size from small, family-owned businesses to large corporations. Smaller wineries must handle all aspects of the wine business from grape production to product marketing while larger corporations offer less diversity of roles but more management opportunities.

If you are considering a major in viticulture and enology, this field of study is part art and part science. It requires academic rigor, muscular brawn, and sipping vino during daytime hours.

More information can be found at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/cipdetail.aspx?y=56&cipid=91393> the Institute for Education Services (IES) National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

# Financial Matters: Understanding Financial Aid Terminology



Navigating the world of college costs can feel confusing. Before you decide whether to apply for financial aid, do your research. If applying for aid, make sure to keep track of form submission dates. Parents should make sure their teen is sharing financial aid emails with them. Have discussions with your teen about college affordability. If you are considering a student loan, one rule of thumb is to never borrow more than the student expects to make in their first year salary after graduation.

Here is a glossary of terms to help you better understand financial aid:

### **Cost of Attendance**

The estimated cost of attending a university for one year. This includes tuition, fees, transportation, student health insurance, books, food and housing.

### **Demonstrated Need**

Your demonstrated (or financial) need is the difference between the cost of attendance (COA) and your student aid index (SAI).

### **Student Aid Index**

(SAI) Replacing the expected family contribution (EFC). It is a measure of your family's ability to pay for college.

### **Net Price Calculators**

A free online tool available on university websites. It allows parents or students to input information about themselves, then provides an estimated net price of attending that particular college. The actual cost of attendance is determined when the financial aid package is received.

### **FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

The form uses Federal Methodology which considers parental gross income as the main factor in determining aid eligibility such as grants, work study, and federal student loans:

<https://studentaid.gov/>

### **FAFSA ID**

A username and password which allows students and parents to identify themselves electronically to access Federal student aid websites. This is your legal signature. Both the parent and student must create their own ID.

### **CSS Profile (College Scholarship Profile)**

Issued by the College Board and is used to determine a student's eligibility for non-federal financial aid. The CSS Profile is a much more comprehensive look at a family's financial situation than the FAFSA. There is a fee for each application and not all colleges require this form -

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

### **Grants**

Usually based on demonstrated financial need. They are usually awarded by the state or federal government and by the universities and colleges. Understand that a minimum GPA is required to remain eligible.

### **Scholarships**

Based on merit, scholarships can be awarded for academic success, athletic ability, artistic talent, diversity or leadership. There are numerous private foundations and community organizations that award scholarships. Students usually need to fill out an application and may need to write an essay or submit a letter of recommendation.

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

### **Student Loans**

Required to be paid back, often with fees and interest rates. Stipulations about college enrollment apply. Here are some of the different types of federal loans that might be offered:

**Direct Subsidized:** These loans are based on financial need, and the federal government pays the interest that accrues while the borrower is in school.

**Direct Unsubsidized Loans:** These loans are not based on financial need, and the borrower is responsible for all interest, including interest that accrues while in school.

**Direct PLUS Loans:** These loans are available to graduate and professional students, as well as to parents of dependent undergraduate students. They have higher interest rates and require a credit check.

**Work Study:** Financial need must be demonstrated to qualify for this program. Work study is an opportunity to work part-time on or near campus. Employers understand you are a student and will give you flexible hours. It is also a great way to gain some work experience that can be added to your resume.

## After Submitting Your Applications

Your applications are in and you are enjoying that wonderful feeling of relief that comes with the last early submission, but don't put away those usernames and passwords just yet. Make sure to check your emails regularly, as well as the specific application portals for each college. Do not panic if you are notified that your application is incomplete, as the missing document probably has not been logged into the system yet. It's also a good idea to keep copies of your applications, just in case a document does get lost.

If you are applying for financial aid, make sure you are submitting required documents such as the FAFSA and the CSS Profile.

Be sure to keep up with schoolwork. Even if you have been accepted early at your favorite school, an offer of admission is always contingent upon successful completion of senior year. If your grades are significantly lower or you have lightened your course load, you could be jeopardizing your admission. Be sure to notify the admission office if you decide to drop a class or make any other changes to your schedule.

Some colleges will request interviews after you have submitted your application. Make sure to be prepared by practicing your interview skills. You may be asked to discuss your interests and experiences. Make sure you can answer the question about why you want to attend that particular school. It is also a good idea to have questions prepared for the interviewer.

If you submitted letters of recommendation, it is important to write thank you notes to those who took their time to write them for you. Teachers and counselors spend a tremendous amount of time doing this for students each year. Show them some appreciation.

Most importantly, celebrate your achievements despite the outcome of admission decisions. Be open to alternate plans. Sometimes they work out better than you expect.

It could be a few months before you find out where you have been admitted. Try not to obsess about upcoming decisions; find other things to occupy your time. Spending more time on community service is a productive way to channel your energy, and helping others can make you feel good about yourself.

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