ACT: The ACT is a standardized college entrance exam. Most students take the ACT during their junior or senior year of high school. For admission, the University of Missouri considers a combination of a student’s ACT or SAT score and class rank or grade point average. (Test-optional admission is also available!)

Admissions Representative: These staff members work with high school students to help inform them and answer questions about Mizzou.

Automatic Scholarships: Automatic scholarships are scholarships for which students are automatically reviewed upon completing an application for admission.

Award Letter: A financial aid award letter is a letter or email from the financial aid office listing the financial aid awards offered to a student and detailing federal, state, institutional and private student financial aid — usually accompanied by an award letter guide providing supplemental financial aid information.

Bachelor’s Degree: A bachelor’s degree is an undergraduate degree awarded by a university or college.

Certificates: A program of study that is part of a degree program or may be completed in addition to a degree program. Certificates can be earned after completing a short program that focuses on a specific area of expertise instead of a more general course of study.

Course Catalog: A comprehensive guide to all of MU’s 300+ degree programs with descriptions of every course typically offered at Mizzou.

Credit Hour: A unit that a student takes towards their degree that corresponds with the number of hours a class is taught a week. For example, a three-credit hour class is a class that meets three hours a week. Most full-time students at Mizzou take anywhere from 12 to 18 credit hours in a semester, meaning that they usually have 12 to 18 hours of classroom instruction a week.

Dean: A professional administrator that oversees a school or college within the university.

Dean’s List: A list of students excelling in their academics based on GPA. The minimum GPA for making the Dean’s list differs from school to school within Mizzou.

Doctorate: A doctorate is the highest degree a student can earn for graduate study. The doctoral degree classification includes such degrees as doctor of education, doctor of juridical science, doctor of public health and the doctor of philosophy degree (PhD) in any field.

Dual Degree or Double Major: Earned by a student who has successfully completed the coursework for two different degree programs.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form to fill out that determines eligibility for financial aid from federal sources. It becomes available for students to fill out every Oct. 1. Mizzou’s priority deadline for prospective students to complete the FAFSA is in early January.

FERPA: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.

Financial Aid: Scholarships, grants and loans used for reducing the overall cost of tuition. Four out of five Tigers receive some sort of financial aid while studying at Mizzou.

First-Generation College Student: A student who is the first in their family to go to college.

Full-Time Student: A full-time Mizzou student takes 12 or more credit hours of classes in a semester. Certain forms of financial aid and other benefits can be dependent upon a student being full or part-time status.

General Education Courses (Gen-Eds): Foundational classes designed to give students a common core of college-level competencies. General education courses are intended to prepare students with information beyond the area of their academic specialization and are often required to complete a degree.

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**Part-Time Student:**
A part-time Mizzou student takes less than 12 credit hours of classes in a semester. Certain forms of financial aid and other benefits can be dependent upon a student being full or part-time status.

**Office Hours:**
Time set aside by professors to meet with students outside of the classroom. Visiting office hours is a great way to get extra help from our world-renowned faculty!

**Networking:**
Building relationships that help broaden your educational and career connections, whether with your classmates, recruiters, faculty or potential employers.

**Lab:**
A section of a class with a hands-on component.

**Lecture:**
A lecture is an educational lesson usually taught by a professor to a class via speech or presentation. Many classes include both a lecture and lab element.

**Major:**
The specific subject area a student is studying to obtain their degree in. Many majors at Mizzou have interest areas and concentrations that allow students to study more specific areas of their major. For example, a Journalism student may have a concentration in Broadcast Journalism.

**Master's Degree:**
A degree awarded after the completion of a bachelor’s degree, to individuals who have successfully demonstrated a high level of expertise in a specific field of study or area of professional practice through attending graduate school.

**Minor:**
A minor is an academic subject area a student chooses as a secondary focus during undergraduate studies. Unlike a major, a minor is typically not required, but it allows a student to take a few additional courses in a subject different from his or her major.

**Residency:**
Missouri resident status is achieved when a student provides sufficient proof of a home within the state of Missouri before enrolling at Mizzou. Establishing Missouri residency is also something an out-of-state student at Mizzou can complete to qualify for in-state tuition.

**Syllabus:**
An outline of a course provided by a professor to their students. They usually include a schedule and description of assignments, reading lists, grading scales, academic policies and professor contact information.

**SAT:**
The SAT is a standardized college entrance exam that measures reading, writing and math skills. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school. For admission, the University of Missouri considers a combination of a student’s ACT or SAT score and class rank or grade point average. (Test-optional admission is also available!)

**Semester:**
A 15-week term during the academic year. Fall semester begins in August and ends in December, while spring semester runs from January to May. Classes are taken over the course of one semester. Mizzou also offers shortened 8-week sessions in the summer for interested students.

**Transfer Credits:**
Credit granted toward a degree based on studies completed at another college or university. For instance, students who transfer from a community college to a four-year college may earn some transfer credit.

**Tuition:**
Part of the cost of attending a school, college or university, tuition is the sum of money charged for teaching or instruction. Usually the cost of attendance (COA) refers to the total amount of education expenses (tuition, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses, transportation expenses, etc.).

**Undergraduate:**
An undergraduate is a student enrolled in a four-year study program, leading to a bachelor’s degree, at a college or university following graduation from high school.

**University Registrar:**
A recordkeeping office on campus. Their duties include registering students, recording grades, preparing student transcripts, evaluating academic records, collecting tuition and fees, planning commencement, overseeing the preparation of college catalogs and schedules of classes and analyzing enrollment and demographic statistics.

**Work-Study:**
A need-based program designed to provide part-time, on-campus employment to students to help meet the costs of their education.