

College in the USA

Level of School & Degrees – Primary/Elementary (小学, grades 1-5); Middle/Jr. High (初中, grades 6-8); (Sr.) High (高中, grades 9-12) → H.S. Diploma; Undergraduate (本科) → Bachelors Degree 学士学位; Graduate (研究) → Masters Degree 硕士学位 (i.e. MA, MS, MBA, etc.), Doctorate Degree 博士学位 (includes Ph.D., MD for medical students, JD for law students). A 研究生 is often shortened to be a “grad student,” while a 本科生 may be shortened to be an “undergrad.”

High schools & colleges use the same terms to describe one's year in school: Freshman (一年级); Sophomore (二年级); Junior (三年级); Senior (四年级). A fifth-year student is sometimes called a “super senior,” and a double dormitory room with only one occupant may be called a “super single.”

Applying & Getting in - admission rates: lower=selective, exclusive/elite
standardized tests (i.e. SAT, ACT) (letter of) admission notice 录取通知书 (office of) admissions rejection letter 软钉子

Types of Schools – College = University Public 公立 Vs. Private 私立 Secular Vs. Religious
online college liberal arts 文科 Professional School (i.e. graduate school for law, business)
Vocational/Tech School 专科学校 Community College “diploma mill” (a bad college whose degrees are almost worthless)
In 2015, about 30% of Americans had a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Most states have a two-tiered system of public universities (i.e. Univ. of CA, California State University).

Paying for School – student loans 助学贷款 Vs. paying “out of pocket” Vs. scholarships & grants 奖学金
school gives a “full ride”全部奖学金 tuition 学费 debt 债务 trust fund
Average tuition in 2015: \$20,403 (Public \$14,746, Private \$33,231). Total yearly costs at private colleges often exceed \$50,000 when fees, room & board are included.

Extracurricular Activities 课外活动 & Clubs 俱乐部 – join a club 参加俱乐部
Q: What clubs are you in? A: I'm in the _____ club and the _____ Students Association.
Q: There's a _____ group meeting tonight at... Wanna come? A: Sure! What should I bring?

a cappella group 无伴奏合唱团 animal rights activism 动物权利 Chess club 下棋 Chinese Students' Association 中国同学会
College Democrats/Republicans 民主党/共和党 community-service groups 社会服务团 environmental clubs 环保俱乐部 faith groups 宗教团
film club 电影俱乐部 improv & sketch comedy troupe 即兴/相声团 intramural sports teams 校园内球队
(compete within the same college campus) marching band 军乐队 student newspaper & yearbook 学生出版的报纸, 杂物, 等
varsity sports teams 大学球队 (compete with other college teams)

Some Uniquely American Majors Probably not Found in Most Chinese Universities 美国特色专业 – American Studies, African American Studies, Africana Studies, Asian American Studies, Art/Music Therapy, Computer Game Science, Gender Studies, General/Liberal Studies, East Asian Studies, Hispanic Studies, Individually-designed Major, Informatics, Interdisciplinary Studies, Queer Studies, Social Ecology, Theology, Undecided/Undeclared, Urban Studies

More Vocabulary - academic advisor 导师 (pull an) all-nighter 熬夜学习 adjunct faculty/lecturer 附属老师 attrition rate 磨损率
bomb (a test/exam) 落榜 brownnose 舔屁股 campus 校园 commencement 毕业典礼 concentration (focus within major) 专业内的重点
co-op (live & eat together) 合作社 deadline 最后限期 department 系 discussion section (class session in addition to the class lecture, usually taught by a TA in large public university) drop out (of school) 退学 drop (a class) enroll field (of study) 科
flunk 落榜 fraternity 兄弟会 GPA (Grade Point Average, usually maximum 4.0) 成绩平均数 Ivy League (group of prestigious private American universities) major 专业 Mickey Mouse class (very easy) minor 辅修(小专业?) leave of absence 事假
lectern 讲桌 lecture 演讲 lecture hall 讲堂 night self-study 晚自习 (does not exist in USA) Sth. 101 (i.e. English 101) 大学基础课程
pass/fail 成绩不是 ABCDF 而是过/不过 prerequisite (classes) 须知课 prestigious 煊赫 probation quarter 学期(4/yr.) register (i.e. for class) 报名 registrar 登记员 research 研究 review session (i.e. often held before exams) “room & board” 食宿 (be on) sabbatical 赋闲 semester 学期(2/yr.) “senioritis” sorority 姐妹会 spring break 春学期的假期 student union 学生会
subfield (division of a field of study) teaching assistant 助教师 tenured professor 转正大学老师 term paper 一门课的小论文 test into Sth. 考上 _____ test out of (a class or requirement) trimester 学期(3/yr.) upper division (class) 三四年级的课 visiting scholar/professor waitlisted 备取