



DEXTER SOUTHFIELD

Early Decision (ED) AND Early Action (EA)

ED applicants

- Apply early (usually in November) to first-choice college.
- Understand that early decision is binding and apply to only one college early decision.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually in December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted ED.

EA applicants

- Understand that early action is non-binding and can apply early action to multiple colleges (usually in November).
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in December or January).
- Consider acceptance offer; do not have to commit upon receipt.
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

Who should apply early?

Applying ED or EA is most appropriate for a student who:

- Has researched colleges extensively.
- Has found a college that is a strong match academically, socially, and geographically.
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the college for SAT/ACT scores and GPA.
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.

Applying ED or EA is not appropriate for a student who:

- Has not thoroughly researched colleges and visited.
- Is applying early just to avoid stress and paperwork.
- Is not fully committed to attending the college.
- Is applying early only because friends are.