

Admission Application Options

Early Decision

Students make a **binding commitment** to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. The one exception is a student who applies for financial aid who was not offered an award that makes attendance possible.

- a. Application deadline is usually Nov. 1 or Nov. 15, with admission decisions announced by Dec. 15th or Jan. 1.
- b. Applicant & counselor are required to sign the Early Decision "contract" - if admitted, the student will enroll. Reply date is usually in early January.
- c. Great way to announce a first-choice to a college.
- d. Examples: Bowdoin, Grinnell, Kalamazoo, Lafayette, NYU, RPI, Smith, and Tufts.
- e. Some colleges have Early Decision I & Early Decision II: Boston College, Carleton, Colgate, Denison, Kenyon, Macalester, St. Olaf, and Washington University in St. Louis.
- f. A few colleges have only ED I: Amherst, Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, and U Pennsylvania.

Early Action

Students apply to an institution of preference & receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students who are admitted under Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission until the regular reply date (May 1).

- a. Application deadline is usually Nov. 1 or Nov. 15, with admission decisions announced by Dec. 15th or in January.
- b. Reply date is extended until May 1.
- c. Student has more flexibility than with Early Decision program.
- d. Examples: Augsburg, Butler, Creighton, Fordham, MIT, St. Ben's, St. John's, SMU, Univ. of Denver, U of M, Twin Cities; Univ. of Redlands, and Univ. of St. Thomas.
- e. Another category is Restrictive Early Action or Early Action Single Choice: Georgetown, Harvard, Stanford, Yale.
- f. Some colleges have ED and EA: Baylor, Case Western, Gustavus, Hamline, Miami Univ., Northeastern, Univ. of Chicago
- g. Some colleges also have EA II: Beloit, Hofstra, Illinois Wesleyan, Knox, Lawrence, St. Ben's, St. John's, U Tampa, and Wittenberg.

Regular Decision

Students submit an application to an institution by a specified date & receive a decision within a reasonable period of time, not later than early April.

- a. Application deadlines vary greatly, ranging from early November to late March.
- b. National Candidate Reply date is May 1.

- c. No restriction on the number of applications a student can file.
- d. Examples: Boston College, Carnegie Mellon, Dartmouth, Georgia Tech, Harvard, MIT, Northwestern, Syracuse - all at January 1.
- e. Examples: Carleton, Hamline, Kalamazoo, Macalester, St. Olaf, Tulane, and Willamette - all at January 15.
- f. Examples: Baylor, Cornell College, DePaul, Ithaca, Marist, and Rollins - all at Feb. 1.

Rolling

The institution reviews applications as they are completed and makes admission decisions on a continuous basis, until the class is filled.

- a. No definitive application deadline.
- b. Reply date (usually) is May 1.
- c. Priority deadlines may be very important - for example, it's November 1 at Indiana Univ., Michigan State Univ., and University of Kansas.
- d. Examples: Augsburg, Bemidji State, Bethany Lutheran, Bethel, Drake, Iowa State, MCAD, MSU-Mankato, MSU-Moorhead, St. Catherine, St. Cloud State, Univ. of Nebraska Lincoln, Univ. of Tampa, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and Winona State.