



# APPLYING EARLY TO COLLEGE? DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ROUNDS

## Timeline?

When is the deadline to apply? When will I hear back? Will I be ready?

## Restrictive?

Can I apply to any other schools early? Or can I only apply to other schools Regular Decision?

## Binding?

If I am admitted, am I required to attend?

Deadline	Timeline?	Restrictive?	Binding?
<b>Early Action</b> (EA)	EA I - Nov EA II - Jan or Feb	NO	NO
<b>Early Decision</b> (ED)	ED I - Nov ED II - Jan or Feb	YES Only 1 school ED	YES
<b>Restrictive/Single Choice Early Action</b> (REA)	November, usually	YES* Depends on school	NO
<b>Regular Decision</b> (RD)	January,** usually	NO	NO

\* **Check each school's policy!** Depending on the REA, students can simultaneously apply:

- Only to public universities through EA (e.g., Yale, Princeton)
- Only to public universities through EA; only to a private university if their EA allows for scholarship consideration (e.g., Harvard, Stanford, CalTech)
- Only to public or private colleges/universities through Early Action (EA)—but not Early Decision (e.g., Georgetown EA, Notre Dame REA)

\*\* Some schools have earlier priority deadlines for scholarship consideration!