



# CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

## College Admission Glossary & Timeline

### Key Application Terms

- **Early Action**
  - Deadlines are typically in November or December, though some Southern colleges offer earlier Early Action deadlines; most common deadline is November 1.
  - **Gives students an opportunity to get an admission decision faster.**
  - If admitted, students still have until the national reply date of May 1 to make their decision and commit to enroll/pay a deposit.
  - In other words, this is a **NON-BINDING** decision.
  - Sometimes colleges will defer students to the regular decision pool if they want to see more information, such as first semester senior year grades, before making a decision.
  
- **Restricted Early Action**
  - All things are the same as with Early Action, with one exception. Students who apply Restricted Early Action to a college are **NOT allowed to apply Early Decision to another college.**
  
- **Early Decision**
  - Deadlines for Early Decision are the same timeframe as Early Action deadlines – November and December.
  - **This is a BINDING admission plan**, which means that students who are accepted are expected to commit to that college and **withdraw all of their other applications.**
  - Students may only apply **Early Decision to ONE college.** (If they are denied, they may apply to another college's Early Decision II program.)
  - Because of the nature of this type of admission plan, it gives students a boost in the application process, meaning admission chances are slightly better under this plan.
  - **The student, school counselor and parent must all sign an Early Decision Agreement, which is done in SCOIR,** indicating their understanding of the binding commitment.
  
- **Early Decision II**
  - Some colleges offer this option during a later timeframe in the admission cycle, often January 1 or later, as an opportunity for students to still get the benefit of Early Decision later in the process.
  - Students who take advantage of this are often students who applied to a different school as an Early Decision candidate earlier in the process and were denied.
  
- **Regular Decision**
  - Deadlines for Regular Decision are typically January 1 or later, **HOWEVER**, there are a few schools that have earlier deadlines for Regular Decision, so always check closely.
  - Students typically do not hear decisions until mid to late March.

- **Rolling Admission**
  - Under this plan there is no official deadline. Rather, colleges review applications as they receive them.
  - While there is no official deadline, colleges usually start reviewing applications after a certain date under this plan. Some colleges begin as early as late August, while others don't start their review process until November.
  - Students receive their decisions the fastest from rolling admission schools.
  - One pitfall to avoid is putting off applying to these colleges because there isn't an official deadline. **Applying earlier to these colleges is a better idea, because sometimes they become more selective as the process goes on** and they have already admitted many students.
  
- **Deferral**
  - Sometimes colleges will defer students during Early Action or Early Decision, rather than admitting or denying them.
  - When a student is deferred to the Regular Admission pool, this means that **the college is not yet sure whether they want to admit the student**, and wants to see additional information, primarily first semester senior year grades, before making a decision.
  - It is a good idea to speak to your counselor if you are deferred to see what additional documentation should be submitted.
  
- **Waitlist**
  - When a student is waitlisted, it means a college would like to offer the student admission, but does not have enough spaces to do so.
  - If you are waitlisted, plan to make a commitment to a different college. Wait list movement fluctuates greatly from year to year; some colleges have relatively small waitlists, while others have very large waitlists.
  - If a college is able to admit waitlist students, **this doesn't usually happen until June or July**.
  
- **Delayed Start or Alternate Admission Offers**
  - Rather than denying students altogether, some colleges will use a delayed start or alternate admission offer.
  - Delayed start usually means you are offered admission for the following spring semester. In this case, you are able to either take classes at another college in the fall or simply work prior to enrollment in the spring.
  - Alternate admission offers are less frequent than delayed starts. With this type of offer, students are typically given the opportunity to spend a year in a specific study abroad program prior to enrolling on the college's main campus.
  - Some colleges will also offer admission to satellite campuses, and given the option of transferring to the main campus after two years.

## College Admission Timeline

### • Junior Year Spring/Summer

- Add colleges of interest to the Following column in SCOIR.
- Visit colleges of interest and make brief notes about likes and dislikes at each school. (Taking the extra step of spending five minutes jotting down your thoughts may help you a LOT when it comes time to whittle down your colleges and make a decision.)
- Spend time researching information on college websites, including academics, housing, extracurricular life, costs and any other topics of interest.
- Register to take at least one SAT or ACT exam between March-June.
- Spend time prepping for SAT and/or ACT to maximize your score.
- Ask two teachers if they are willing to write a letter of recommendation for your applications.
- Parent and student should sign FERPA release authorization/waiver of rights in SCOIR.
- Parent should complete Parent Brag Sheet survey in SCOIR.
- Update Activities and Achievements section in SCOIR (resumé). (Done in College Planning)
- Create Common Application account. (Done in College Planning)
- Use summer as opportunity to work on Common App sections found in Common App tab: Profile, Family, Education, Testing, Activities, Writing.
- Use summer to brainstorm essay ideas and begin drafting college essay.
- Register for any additional SAT/ACT tests you will take in the fall.

### Senior Year

#### • September

- Finalize where you will apply for admission and how you will apply/which deadlines you will have (Early Action, Regular Admission, etc.)
- Add colleges to which you will apply to the Applying column in SCOIR and to the Common App. Be mindful of deadlines that must be met for application deadlines. See list in SCOIR document.
- Sign up for college visits in SCOIR. (Instruction provided in College Seminar for seniors.)
- Determine whether you will need to complete any applications apart from the Common App.
- Complete application sections in Common App under Common App & My Colleges tabs. (Parts will be worked on in College Seminar).
- If you have not yet asked two teachers to be your recommenders, do so BEFORE the end of September.
- Work on primary college essay. (Also done in English class.)
- Determine what other supplemental pieces of writing you will need to complete. (Found under My Colleges tab in Common App as well as on college websites.) Begin working on drafts of these short answer questions and essays.
- Register for any additional SAT/ACT tests you plan to take.

#### • October

- Continue to sign up for college visits in SCOIR.
- Send any SAT/ACT scores to colleges at least two weeks prior to application deadline. These must be sent directly from testing websites unless college accepts self-reported scores.
- Check back in with your recommenders and remind them of your first college deadline.
- Finalize primary college essay.
- Finalize supplemental short answer questions or additional essays.
- Work on any supplemental applications apart from Common App (if you have any).
- Ask your counselor to do a final review of your Common Application when ready.

- Move tiles in SCOIR to Applied column as you submit applications in Common App.
  - Finalize and submit Early Action and/or Early Decision applications.
  - VERY IMPORTANT: For colleges that require the SRAR, you will need to submit those applications at least ONE WEEK prior to the actual deadline, so that you have time to do the SRAR prior to the deadline. Be sure to keep in close contact with your counselor about it.
  - Check to see if any of your colleges require the CSS Profile to apply for financial aid. If so, you may begin filing this form (through College Board website) after October 1.
- **November**
    - Continue with any of the October tasks that are not completed.
    - Review college financial aid websites to determine whether there are additional scholarship opportunities you can apply for.
    - Watch your e-mail CAREFULLY, as colleges will use this to communicate important information with you. It is a good idea to make a folder for each college in your email and then keep all important communication from that college in that folder.
    - If colleges give you credentials for an applicant portal on their website, be sure to set that up. They will likely be posting important information in the portal.
    - If any colleges request your first quarter grades, be sure to tell your counselor.
    - If the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov), be sure to complete this to apply for financial aid at all of your colleges.
    - Begin researching and applying for outside scholarships available through the Canisius website and through large national search engines such as [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com), [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) and the College Board website.
- **December**
    - Complete any steps from October/November that are not completed.
    - All college applications should be completed by the end of this month.
    - Be sure to touch base with your counselor at least one week prior to the winter break about any remaining applications you will be submitting, so that supporting documentation is sent in a timely fashion.
    - As you begin receiving decisions from colleges, send in copies of acceptances and scholarship letters to your counselor. This will be required in order to pick up graduation tickets in May.
- **January**
    - Continue to do scholarship research and applications.
    - Continue to watch your e-mail for important college messages.
    - Continue to turn in copies of acceptances and scholarship letters to your counselor.
- **February**
    - If any colleges need a copy of your midyear senior grades, be sure to turn in the midyear report form with those colleges listed. This form will be sent out by guidance to all seniors in very early February, as soon as second quarter grades are finalized.
    - Sign up for accepted student events being held at your colleges.
- **March**
    - Final application decisions should be out from all of your colleges by the end of March at the latest.
    - Continue to attend accepted student events and turn in copies of acceptances/scholarship letters.

- **April**
  - Finalize your college choice.
  - Finish senior year strong!
  
- **May**
  - Be sure you have committed to a college by the national reply deadline of May 1.
  - Complete the senior survey in guidance providing your college choice – your final high school transcript will be sent automatically after graduation to the college you have chosen.
  - Watch for tasks you must complete as an enrolling student, like signing up for orientation, choosing housing and registering for classes. Each college handles all of these tasks differently.
  - Graduate! Congratulations on becoming a Canisius High School alumnus!

\*\* In addition to the College Planning class we have for juniors and the College Seminar we have for seniors, we also have several Zoom workshops posted on our Website on the College and Career Resources page. These workshops include complete walk-throughs of all sections of the Common App, writing the college essay and financial aid. \*\*