

TYPES OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Early Decision: Typically due November 1.

Advantage - Students are more likely to be accepted because colleges have higher admission rates for Early Decision applicants. Also, students are notified early of their acceptance (or rejection), typically between December 1 and 15.

Disadvantage - Students are under contract to attend the college that accepts them even if they receive little financial aid. Students who submit an Early Decision application are forbidden to apply to any other school using the Early Decision process; some colleges forbid applying to all other colleges using any type of Early Application or early notification process.

Student Commitment Date - Enrollment confirmation must be sent typically between December 15 and January 7. Students are committed (legally or ethically bound) to enroll upon receipt of decision letter notifying them of acceptance.

Early Action/Early Application: Typically due November 1 – 15.

Advantage - Students receive decision letters from colleges regarding their admission status early (before the December holidays), but do not have to commit to enroll until May 1. Colleges have higher acceptance rates for Early Action applicants. If students are not accepted to the colleges they applied to under Early Action, there is still adequate time to apply to other colleges and universities using the Regular Admission process. When students apply under Early Action, they remain free to apply to any other college and university using Early, Regular, Rolling, or Late Applications.

Disadvantage - Students have a busy fall semester because all application documents typically are due in early to mid-November.

Student Commitment Date - May 1

Single Choice Early Action: Typically due November 1 – 15.

Advantage - Students are more likely to be accepted because colleges have higher acceptance rates for these applicants. If rejected, students will have adequate time to apply to other colleges and universities using the Regular Admission process.

Disadvantage - Students who submit a Single-Choice Early Action application are forbidden to apply to any other college or university using the Early Action process, thereby reducing their chances for acceptance to other schools.

Student Commitment Date – May 1

Regular Admission/Regular Decision/Regular Application: Typically January 15 – February 1.

Advantage - Students have additional months of time to complete and submit application materials. Students have no restrictions on the number schools to which they can apply.

Disadvantage - Students are less likely to be accepted because colleges have lower admission rates for Regular Admission applicants than for Early Decision and Early Action applicants. Students will not find out if they are accepted until April.

Student Commitment Date – May 1

Rolling Admission/Rolling Decision: Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Advantage – Students can apply anytime.

Disadvantage - Once colleges accept enough students, additional applications will not be considered (because the applicant pool is filled). Students should remember the later they apply, the less likely they will be accepted and the less likely they will qualify for financial aid.

Student Commitment Date - May 1 (if applying prior to May 1). If applying after May 1, commit as soon as possible after decision letter from college is received.

Late Application: Check individual colleges and universities for deadlines.

Advantage - Students can apply late, even in summer months after high school graduation.

Disadvantage - Once colleges accept enough students, additional late applications will not be considered. Students should remember the later they apply, the less likely they will be accepted and the less likely they will qualify for financial aid.

Student Commitment Date - As soon as possible after decision letter from college is received.