

APPLYING EARLY

There are several different ways to apply early:

- Early action
- Restrictive early action (or single-choice early action)
- Early decision
- Early decision II

When applying early, the deadlines will typically be October 15 - January 1.

Applying early has its advantages. Not only do you find out earlier if you got in or not, you also often have a better chance of getting into the school.

There are three outcomes to applying early:

- 1) Accepted
- 2) Denied
- 3) Deferred (your application will be reevaluated in the regular decision round.)



WHAT IS EARLY ACTION?

- Early action (EA) means you apply earlier than the regular decision deadline
- Early action deadlines are typically in November, with November 1 and 15 being the most common
- EA is **NOT** binding - you don't have to attend if you are accepted
- You can apply to many schools Early Action as you want (i.e., you can apply to 4 early action schools, 4 regular decision schools, and 1 ED school or REA)
- You have until May 1 to make your decision on whether you want to attend

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Last chance to take the ACT/SAT is in September, otherwise, you might not get the test scores in time.
- Ask for letters of recommendations by October 1
- Work on your personal statement over the summer

DOES APPLY EA HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

Yes, a little bit. Typically not as much as ED or REA.



RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION

WHAT IS RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION?

- Also known as single-choice early action
- Restrictive Early Action (REA) means you apply earlier than the regular decision deadline
- REA is **NOT** binding - you don't have to attend if you are accepted
- You can apply to only **ONE** school restrictive early action or early decision (i.e., you can apply to 4 early action schools, 4 regular decision schools, and 1 REA school). You cannot do both REA and ED.
- You have until May 1 to make your decision on whether you want to attend

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Last chance to take the ACT/SAT is in September, otherwise, you might not get the test scores in time.
- Ask for letters of recommendations by October 1
- Work on your personal statement over the summer

DOES APPLY REA HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

Yes, a lot! Many colleges fill more than 50% of the class in this round.



EARLY DECISION

WHAT IS EARLY DECISION?

- Early Decision (ED) means you apply earlier than the regular decision deadline
- ED applications are usually due in November
- ED is binding - you **MUST** attend if you are accepted, unless financial issues prevent you.
- You can apply to only **ONE** school early decision or restrictive early action (i.e., you can apply to 4 early action schools, 4 regular decision schools, and 1 ED school [or one REA school])
- If admitted, you must accept immediately (within two weeks)

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Last chance to take the ACT/SAT is in September, otherwise you might not get the test scores in time.
- Ask for letters of recommendations by October 1
- Work on your personal statement over the summer
- When you send in your application, you, your parent, and counselor sign an agreement that states you will attend the college if accepted and offered an adequate financial package.
- Decisions are sent by mid-December. If accepted, you must withdraw all other applications immediately.

DOES APPLY ED HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

Yes, a lot! Many colleges fill more than 50% of the class in this round.



EARLY DECISION II

WHAT IS EARLY DECISION II?

- Early Decision (ED II) means you apply around the same time as regular decision deadlines
- ED applications are usually due January 1
- ED II is binding - you **MUST** attend if you are accepted, unless financial issues prevent you.
- You can apply to only **ONE** school early decision or restrictive early action. If you don't get into that school, you can then apply to **ONE** school ED II
- If admitted, you must accept immediately (within two weeks) and withdraw all other applications.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- When you send in your application, you, your parent, and counselor sign an agreement that states you will attend the college if accepted and offered an adequate financial package.
- Decisions are sent by mid-February. If accepted, you must withdraw all other applications.

DOES APPLY ED II HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

Yes, a lot!



APPLYING EARLY FAQ

Q: CAN I APPLY TO THE SAME SCHOOL IN THE ED I AND ED II ROUND?

A: No, if you are rejected from the school you applied in the first early decision round, you cannot apply to it again during the regular decision round or Early Decision II round.

Q: CAN I APPLY TO BOTH AN EARLY DECISION I AND RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION SCHOOL?

A: No, you must pick between applying to a school in the first early decision round or in the restrictive early action round. You can only apply to one school ED I or one school REA.

Q: CAN I APPLY TO BOTH AN EARLY DECISION II AND RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION SCHOOL?

A: Yes, you can apply to an REA school and ED II, as long as the ED II program notification of admission occurs after January 1.

Q: CAN I APPLY TO SCHOOLS IN BOTH THE EARLY DECISION I ROUND AND EARLY DECISION II ROUND?

A: Yes, if you are rejected or deferred from your ED I school, you may apply to another school in the ED II round.



Q: WHEN SHOULD I APPLY TO A SCHOOL EARLY DECISION OR EARLY DECISION II?

A: You should pick somewhere a) is your top choice; b) you can afford regardless of the financial package; and c) is a university where you have a reasonable chance of acceptance.

Q: HOW MUCH CAN APPLYING IN THE EARLY DECISION ROUND HELP ME?

A: It can help a lot! Duke University accepted 18.2% of its 2019 applicants who applied in the early decision round and just 5.7% in the regular decision.

23.2% of Dartmouth's early decision applicants were accepted, as opposed to just 7.9% of its regular applicants.

Q: IF I GET WAITLISTED, WHAT ARE MY CHANCES OF GETTING OFF THE WAITLIST?

A: It depends on the school. The average is about 1 in 5, but some schools accept 100% of their waitlist, and some schools accept 0 people off their waitlist.

In 2017, Harvard University accepted 0 students off its waitlist.

Research the school and see how many people their admitted off the waitlist in the past.



APPLYING EARLY FAQ

Q: WHO SHOULD APPLY EARLY?

Applying early is recommended for students who have spent time putting together a fully completed application. If you have to rush to complete your supplemental essays, it might be better to wait for the regular decision round.

Q: WHAT'S THE BEST COLLEGE ADMISSIONS APPLICATION STRATEGY?

A:

- 1) Apply to your top school in the ED or REA round
- 2) Apply to as many schools as you want during the EA round
- 3) If rejected or deferred from your ED or REA school, apply to a different school in the ED II round
- 4) Apply to as many schools as you want in the regular decision round



APPLYING TO COLLEGE

HOW TO APPLY REGULAR DECISION

- Rolling decision
- Regular decision

When applying regular decision, the deadlines will typically be between January 1 and February 1

Applying regular decision or rolling decision has a few advantages. None of these decisions are binding, so you have time to weigh your options and financial aid packages.

The deadlines are later so you can spend more time on your applications and essays.

THREE OUTCOMES TO APPLYING

- 1) Accepted
- 2) Denied
- 3) Waitlisted (the college liked you, but there was not enough room in their admissions class to offer you a spot at this time.)



ROLLING ADMISSIONS

WHAT IS ROLLING ADMISSIONS?

- Rolling admissions means applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Some schools begin taking applications as early as July and continue through April.
- Rolling admissions is **NOT** binding - you don't have to attend if you are accepted
- You can apply to many schools rolling admissions as you want
- You will typically get the admissions decision within 4 -6 weeks of sending in your application
- You have until May 1 to make your decision on whether you want to attend

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Make sure you apply before the school's deadline. That means, you might be able to apply even after college admissions close for other schools.
- Apply only if you have taken the SAT/ACT and gotten the scores necessary to get in

DOES APPLY ROLLING ADMISSIONS HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

If you apply as soon as the application opens, it can help your odds.



REGULAR ADMISSIONS

WHAT IS REGULAR ADMISSIONS?

- Regular admissions is the typical, normal process for applying to universities.
- Deadlines are typically between January 1 and February 1
- Regular admissions decisions are **NOT** binding - you don't have to attend if you are accepted
- You can apply to many schools regular decisions as you want
- You will typically get the admissions decision by April 1
- You have until May 1 to make your decision on whether you want to attend

DOES APPLY ROLLING ADMISSIONS HELP MY ADMISSIONS CHANCES?

No

