Meeting Your College Admission Deadlines

Deciding *where* to apply to college is stressful enough, but what about *when* to apply? Many colleges offer various application deadlines — early decision, early action, regular decision and more — but it is important to know the details of each before you decide which one is right for you.

Admission 101
GUIDING YOU THROUGH THE COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

Here are some highlights of various application options – but be sure to check with each specific school, as policies vary:

EARLY DECISION (ED) I AND II. If you are absolutely positive that you want to attend a particular school, Early Decision I (EDI) may be a good option. It's important to note that this is a binding contract, meaning that if you're admitted, you are stating that you will attend the EDI school. If you are not admitted to your top choice through EDI, you may then have the option to apply EDII to another school. You can only apply to one school EDI and one school EDII.

EARLY ACTION (EA) I AND II. Early Action is a good option for students who want to apply to more than one school and compare financial aid packages. It is non-binding; you can apply to other schools and you are not obligated to attend the school if admitted.

RESTRICTED EARLY ACTION/SINGLE-CHOICE EARLY ACTION. Restricted Early Action is similar to Early Action I and II except you may not apply ED or EA to other private schools. In some cases, you can apply EA to a public college whose admission is non-binding.

The deadline for Early Decision and Early Action applications is typically in November, with acceptance notifications in December.

REGULAR DECISION. If you don't have a clear first choice school, applying Regular Decision may be best for you. It is non-binding; you can apply to as many schools as you like.

The deadline for Regular Decision is typically in January/February, with acceptance notifications in the spring.

ROLLING ADMISSION. Some schools review and decide upon applications as they are received. Technically there are no submission deadlines or decision dates, but it's always good to apply early before space is full.

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