

Admission Terms and Processes

Highly Selective College Admission Calendar: Many college admission timetables call for applications to be filed during the fall or early winter of a student's senior year. Supporting materials—including standardized test scores, high school records and recommendations—are sent to colleges at the student's request. Members of the admission office or admission committee retreat from late-February to late-March to read applications and make decisions. Students are informed of their status from early- to mid-April. Accepted applicants are required to notify the college whether they accept the offer to attend no later than May 1, referred to as the CRD or Candidate's Reply Date.

Non-Restrictive Application Plans: Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Regular Decision: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

The following principles apply to Regular Decision plans:

- A student may apply to other colleges without restrictions
- The institution will state a deadline for completion of application and will respond to completed application by a specified date
- A student admitted under a Regular Decision plan may not be required to make a commitment prior to May 1, but may be encouraged to do so as soon as a final choice is made.

Rolling Admission: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render decisions throughout the admission cycle.

The following principles apply to Rolling Admission plans:

- A student may apply to other colleges without restrictions
- The institution will respond to completed applications in a timely manner
- The student admitted under a Rolling Admission plan may not be required to make a commitment prior to May 1, but may be encouraged to do so as soon as a final college choice is made.

Early Action (EA): Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students who are admitted under EA are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission.

The following principles apply to Early Actions Plans:

- A student may apply to other colleges without restriction
- The student admitted under an Early Action plan may not be required to make a commitment prior to May 1, but may be encouraged to do so as soon as a final college choice is made

Early Decision (ED): Application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. Should a student who applies for

financial aid not be offered an award that makes attendance possible, the student may decline the offer of admission and be released from the Early Decision commitment. Only a student who is ready to make a deliberate and well-reasoned first-choice decision should apply under an Early Decision plan.

The following principles apply to Early Decision plans:

- While pursuing admissions under an Early Decision plan, student may apply to other institutions but may have only one Early Decision application pending at one time
- The Early Decision application supersedes all other applications. Immediately upon acceptance of an offer of admission, a student must withdraw all other applications and make no subsequent applications.
- The application form will include a request for a parent and a counselor signature in addition to the student's signature indicating an understanding of the Early Decision commitment and agreement to abide by its terms.

Restrictive Early Action (REA): Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED, EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm

Wait List: Admission decision option utilized by institutions to protect against shortfalls in enrollment. Wait lists are sometimes made necessary because of the uncertainty of the admission process, as students submit applications for admission to multiple institutions and may receive several offers of admission. By placing a student on the wait list, an institution does not initially offer or deny admission, but extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future, before the institution's admission cycle is concluded.

The following principles apply to Wait List decisions:

- The institution will ensure that a wait list, if necessary, is of reasonable length is maintained for a reasonable period of time.
- In the letter offering a wait list position, the institution should provide a past wait list history which describes the number of students placed on a wait list(s), the number offered admission from the wait list, and the availability of financial aid. Students should be given an indication of when they can expect to be notified of final admissions decision.