

KINDS OF ADMISSION

EARLY DECISION:

A student declares a first-choice college, requests that the college decide on acceptance early (October-December), and agrees to enroll if accepted. This is a binding agreement, students do not apply to other schools. Thorough research and a college visit are strongly recommended before choosing this option.

EARLY ACTION:

Similar to early decision, but if a student is accepted he/she has until the regular admission deadline to decide whether to attend.

REGULAR ADMISSION:

This is the most common option offered to students. Firm application deadlines, usually November through February, are set. Colleges let all applicants know their fates on the same day, usually in late March or early April. Most give successful applicants until May 1 to make their decisions. After May 1, they fill unclaimed places by taking names off their Wait List.

ROLLING ADMISSION:

The college accepts students who meet the academic requirements on a first-come, first-served basis until it fills its freshman class. They usually publish a date when they begin considering applications. Applications are reviewed and decisions are made quickly (usually within 2-3 weeks). No strict application deadline is specified, but students should apply early for the best chance of acceptance.

OPEN ADMISSION:

Virtually all high school graduates are admitted, regardless of academic qualification. Almost all 2-year colleges are open admission.

DEFERRED ADMISSION:

An accepted student is allowed to postpone enrollment for a year.

HOW MANY SCHOOLS SHOULD I APPLY TO?

There is no "one right answer" to this question. Typically students will narrow the field to about 6 schools. These schools should all have the characteristics that are the most important to the student and have a range of admissions possibilities.

Reach Schools: This is the time to aim high, giving colleges a chance to recognize goals & distinctions.

Core Schools: These are realistic and reasonable choices based on application materials. If there is concern about financial aid awards, students may wish to apply to a few more schools in order to be able to compare and choose among financial aid packages.

Safety School: This school should meet the student's needs well and be safe in terms of selectivity and affordability.

Remember college is a match to be made, not a prize to be won! Research is required!!

