

Early Action, Early Decision and Regular Admission

When applying to colleges, it is important to know and understand the differences between Early Action, Early Decision and Regular admission applications. The following illustration will help you to differentiate between each of the admission applications, so you are able to choose the best application for you.

Early Decision

- **Binding:** if you are accepted, you are required to attend that school. If you break this contract, you may have other offers rescinded.
- You can only submit ONE early decision application
- Improves your chances of acceptance
- - Most Early Decision applications are due by October/November during senior year (check application deadlines!)
- If accepted, you will receive your acceptance letter usually by December
- Once accepted, you must send in a deposit, which may be before you receive your financial aid package
- **Good option for those who:** know exactly what college they want to attend and have no intention of submitting multiple applications. If you are unsure of your selection, an early decision application may not be the best option

Early Action

- **Non-Binding:** if you are accepted, you can still apply to other colleges
- You can submit more than one early action application and you will find out whether you're admitted sooner than the regular application
- Improves your chances of acceptance
- If accepted, you will receive your acceptance letter usually by January or February
- May not be a good option if you need a strong Fall semester to bring GPA up
- **Good option for those who:** are interested in exploring other options, but still want to find out your admission status early

Regular Decision

- Applications are submitted by the college's regular application deadline (usually sometime in December or January)
- First semester grades will be included on your application, which may allow for a stronger application
- If accepted, you will receive your acceptance letter sometime in March/April
- **Good option for those who:** need more time to improve their application and for those who have not decided on a specific program yet.