

# UNDERSTANDING ADMISSIONS DEADLINES & APPLICATION TYPES

## ADMISSIONS PLANS + DEADLINES

Colleges have different admissions plans and deadlines. Below is an overview of the most common! Here is a [helpful database](#) of college deadlines. Remember, it is the student's responsibility to keep track of and verify all admissions deadlines on their own.

ADMISSIONS PLAN	DESCRIPTION	DEADLINES
Regular Decision	Regular Decision is just like it sounds... the “regular” application to a college. It is not binding, and you can apply Regular Decision to as many schools as you would like.	Regular Decision deadlines are generally between <b><u>January 1 and February 1</u></b> .
Early Decision (ED)	Students apply by an early deadline to <u>one</u> college and sign a <u>binding contract</u> to indicate they will attend if accepted. ED often has a <a href="#">higher admit rate</a> (see here), but should be only used for a true top choice college.	Most ED deadlines are in <b><u>November (Nov 1 or 15)</u></b> , sometimes in October.
Early Action (EA)	Students apply by an early deadline to <u>any number of colleges</u> & receive an earlier admissions decision. If you apply EA, you are not required to attend if accepted.	Most EA deadlines are in <b><u>November (Nov 1 or 15)</u></b> , for a few colleges Oct 15.
Priority Deadlines	Priority deadlines are most common for large, out-of-state public college systems. While colleges with priority deadlines review applications after the priority deadline, applications receive priority if submitted before. Priority deadlines can also be necessary to receive merit scholarship, honors college admissions, or guaranteed housing. Make sure to research the policy of each college on your list.	Priority deadlines are often in <b><u>Nov or December</u></b> .
Program-Specific Early Deadlines	Some programs or majors may have earlier deadlines than the colleges “regular” deadlines. This is especially common for majors that require portfolio or audition review, such as specialized BFAs or MusB in the arts (music, theater, visual art, etc.). For example at Pace, all initial applicants to the School of Performing Arts	Varies

	must be submitted by Dec 1. For the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin, applications and audition materials must be submitted by Early December.	
<b>Unique “Early” Deadlines</b>	While some colleges don’t technically have “priority” deadlines, they do have deadlines that do not follow the typical regular admissions timeline and thus are “early”. Examples: CUNY Macaulay Honors (Nov 17), University of California Schools (Dec 1), Cal State Schools (Dec 1), UT Austin (Dec 1).	Varies.
<b>Rolling Admissions</b>	Colleges with rolling deadlines review applications & release decisions as soon as they are submitted and continue to review admissions until they fill their class. For a rolling admissions college, you can submit your application as soon as it is complete.	As soon as application materials are ready.
<b>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</b>	Students apply to a college by an early deadline and, like EA, are not obligated to attend if accepted. However, with Restrictive Early Action, they may not apply to other schools in the early rounds (ED or EA). The policy varies by school, but some colleges with an REA plan allow applicants to still apply EA to public colleges. Restrictive Early Action is only currently used by a few schools (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and a few others).	Most REA deadlines are <b><u>Nov 1 or 15.</u></b>

## APPLICATION FORMATS

Colleges also have different application formats to use to apply. Most application formats require similar parts - basic information about you, your academics, your activities, and an essay. However, they do have slight differences!

APPLICATION FORMAT & LINK	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Common Application</a>	The Common App is the primary application used in college admissions and is used by students to apply to most SUNY, private, and out-of-state public institutions. Several international colleges also accept this format. The Common App includes a “common” set of application questions, where students include application information to be sent to <i>each</i> college they apply to through the Common App, as well as college-specific information. List of colleges that accept the Common App <a href="#">here</a> .
<a href="#">CUNY Application</a>	All ICE students are encouraged to apply to CUNY, our excellent city college public system. CUNY has its own application system, through which you can apply to up to 6 campuses.
<a href="#">SUNY Application</a>	All 4-year SUNYs are on the Common App; it is recommended by the ICE College Office that you <b>do not</b> use the SUNY App unless you are applying to FIT or another 2-year degree SUNY.
<a href="#">UCAS</a>	For UK schools (full list of colleges that accept the UCAS <a href="#">here</a> ). Apply up to give courses/programs of study. More information <a href="#">here</a> .
<a href="#">University of California Application</a> & <a href="#">CalState Application</a> .	The UC & Cal State systems each have their own application formats and application periods.
Other College-Specific Applications.	Some colleges, especially some out-of-state public colleges, have their own application formats and do not accept the Common App as an alternative. Some examples: UT-Austin ( <a href="#">ApplyTexas</a> or Coalition App), Georgetown ( <a href="#">Georgetown Application</a> ), MIT ( <a href="#">MyMIT</a> ), McGill, and more.
<a href="#">Coalition App</a>	The Coalition App is accepted by almost 200 colleges, but very few colleges <i>only</i> accept the Coalition App (in fact, the last college that required coalition only just gave it up). So, in almost all cases, recommendation is to complete the Common App, not the Coalition.

