

December 17th, 2025

Hello Seniors!

Here we are in the midst of college application season and we know the application decisions are beginning to come in/be available for many of the rolling and early action/decision deadlines. This can be an exciting and an unsettling time and we encourage you to stop and take a breath and to remember something very important.

You are the same person you were before you opened your e-mail, logged into the school's website or opened the letter. You are loved by the same people, respected by the same teachers and valued at the same jobs. The colleges' responses simply let you know what options there are for you to consider going forward.

If you got into the school you hoped for and got adequate financial aid to meet whatever financial need you have, congratulations. If you were not accepted, this does not say anything about you as a person or student – it simply indicates that a committee of people reading way more applications than they can accept decided they needed a banjo player or an athlete or someone from a different state. In the end, it will be how much you take advantage of the opportunities the school you attend offers that will determine the quality of your college experience.

In terms of possible outcomes, an acceptance means you are invited to attend the school. If you applied early decision and are able to make the finances work, the expectation is that you will notify any other schools you applied to that you are withdrawing your application. This means freeing up the spaces for other applicants at those schools. It is also VERY helpful if you go into Scoir and indicate the outcome of your application and withdraw any other apps.

A deferral means that the school sees you as a viable candidate and is moving your application to the regular decision pool. This may be because they did not want to accept too large a percentage of their incoming class through early decision/early action or because they would like to wait and see mid-year grades before making a final decision.

Finally, if you were denied, it simply means that you did not meet the profile of what the school was looking for in next year's class. This could be for a myriad of reasons, and while disappointing, it is not a statement about who you are as a person or whether you will bring exciting things to a college campus.

It is worth restating: you are the same person today as you were before you received whatever decision you did.

One favor you can do for us, and the classes of students who will follow in your footsteps, is to indicate in Scoir the outcomes of your applications. This helps to keep us and future seniors up on current enrollment trends at the various colleges and universities.

Finally, please know that your school counselors are happy to meet with you to discuss your college list, your financial aid package and whatever else is on your mind going forward. With break a week away, we wish you a wonderful and restful time off.

Best,

The Direction Center