

An aerial photograph of the Mount Holyoke College campus, showing a dense forest of green trees surrounding several large, multi-story brick buildings. A prominent clock tower with a tall, pointed roof and a weather vane is visible on the right side of the image. The sky is blue with light, wispy clouds.

# Applying early? Here's what you need to know.

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MOUNT  HOLYOKE

# What is “regular” and “early” admission?

Submit your application in January

**Regular**

Receive your admission decision by April 1

**Regular**

Choose your college by May 1.

You submit your application earlier (typically November through January)

**Early**

You receive your admission decision earlier (often a 1-2 months after applying)

**Early**

Choose your college by early deadline or May 1.

# Early Options

## Early Decision (ED)

### **Binding!**

Can only submit **one** early application.

If admitted, **must accept offer** and withdraw other regular apps.

Early deadline to enroll (usually within **a month** of receiving decision)

## Restrictive Early Action (REA) or

## Single-Choice Early Action (SCEA)

Can only apply to **one** “early” application.

Have until **May 1** to decide and can compare with other offers.

## Early Action (EA)

Can submit other early or regular applications.

Have until **May 1** not decide and compare with other offers.

# Early Timeline



# Is it easier to get in early?

Very common idea that applying early increases your chances of admission, is that true?

**It depends!**

Statistics can be deceiving! *Who* is applying early and *why* might the admission rate be higher?

*Caveat: some institutions encourage early admission for candidates seeking the highest financial aid awards.*

# What deadline should I choose?

**It depends!**

Ask yourself:

If considering a binding option, like Early Decision, are you ready to say YES if admitted?  
If you want to be able to compare multiple admission offers, scholarships, and financial aid awards, consider Early Action and Regular Decision options.

Are you *ready* to apply early?

Do you feel your application is ready to submit or do you really need more time to write that essay?

Have you taken the required standardized tests and received your scores already?

Does your family need a significant amount of financial aid?

You **MUST** ask the schools on your list about their policies individually!

But remember, *you* don't decide how much aid you need.

# Thank you!

