

# Applying Early? What You Need to Know

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# Different Types of Early Applications

## Early Action (EA)

- **Non-binding**
- You apply early, normally in October, November, or December
- You receive your admissions decision earlier, normally in January or February
- You still apply to other colleges under the Regular Decision round
- You still have until May 1 to make a decision – take time to consider your offer

## Early Decision (ED)

- **Binding**
- Apply early to your absolute top choice college or university
- You still apply to other colleges under the Regular Decision Round
- If you are admitted, you must attend (barring extenuating circumstances)
- You must withdraw all applications to other colleges if accepted
- You will submit your enrollment deposit/fee at an earlier date

## Single-Choice Early Action (SCEA)

- The same plan as Early Action - **non-binding**
- You can only apply to one school through SCEA
- Showing the same level of interest as through ED, but are not required to attend if admitted

# Financial Aid

- Each college will have a different policy in awarding financial aid to international applicants
- Some schools reserve financial aid for Regular Decision so they can consider every applicant in the pool
- Some schools require you to apply early to be considered for financial aid
- Some schools have the same financial aid process across all application rounds and plans, but have different admit rates between rounds
- Be sure to do your research! Know that every school will have different policies and preferences, so it's crucial to know BEFORE you apply

# Academic Trajectory

- Colleges want to see a steady or upward trend in your grades
- Do you need to increase your grades in the Fall of your senior year to strengthen your application?
- Make sure to research each school's approach to reviewing academic achievement
  - Do they require standardized testing, and if so, do they have minimum scores? Do you have time to take the tests required and submit them?
  - What does the academic profile look like for successful applicants?

# When to Apply Early

- You have done your research and know your **top choice** school
- You have prepared and can submit your **strongest** application
- You know the financial aid policy of the school you're applying to, and it **works for you**
- Your academic profile meets that of **successful** applicants

# Contact



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