

# COLLEGE APPLICATION FAQ

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## **What is the difference between early action and early decision?**

Early Action (EA) is an opportunity to receive an early answer but you do not need to commit. Early Decision (ED) is a binding commitment. All other applications must be withdrawn when you are accepted. The only acceptable reason not to commit on ED is a financial reason. Therefore, if you need to compare financial aid offers, Early Decision may not be the best way to apply.

## **What is rolling admission?**

Some colleges wait until spring to notify all students of their admissions decisions. Other colleges have a rolling admissions policy. You will be notified some weeks after you apply. If a school has a rolling admissions policy, it is very important to apply early especially for selective majors/programs within the university. It is also important that you take your SAT/ACT tests your junior year so you can submit scores early in the fall of senior year.

## **When do I submit my applications?**

The counselors ask for two weeks in which to process your application. Therefore, please plan on submitting your completed application to the counselors two weeks prior to the due date. Early decision/action deadlines are generally November 1, so do your applications quickly. Most regular application deadlines are December 15 or January 1. You need to PLAN AHEAD.

## **Should I use the Common Application?**

All the colleges that will accept the common application are listed on their web site. These colleges abide by the policy that they will give the Common Application (CA) the same consideration as an institutional application. The CA offers students a time saving option. It is important to fill out the CA thoroughly, take time with the essays and get the required recommendations. If you are submitting the CA on line, download a copy first, proof read extensively and make a hard copy when you submit it. Also, you will need to fill out a green form to tell your counselor that you have applied on line and give her all the forms she needs to fill out and send. Also, please note that some schools require supplemental institutional forms with the CA.

## **Should I apply on line?**

More and more students are doing so. Colleges like to get on line applications, because it cuts down on the data entry phase of the process. If you decide to apply online, follow some precautions. Download a paper copy to work from; check all your spelling and grammar carefully. Also, follow through with a phone call or email inquiry to ensure that the application was received.

## **What is the purpose of the essay?**

The purpose of the essay is twofold. First, it is an example of your writing style and ability. Second, it allows the admissions officers to find out more about you as an individual. It is very important that you take a lot of time with essay writing and have your essays checked by an English teacher, a CIC staff volunteer or your counselor. Grammar, spelling, form and content are important.

## **How many applications should I submit?**

There is no one answer for this question. If you apply Early Decision, the answer is one. Generally, the counselors advice you to apply to one 'stretch' school, two or three 'likely' schools and at least one 'sure thing.' Many students send an average of six applications, but it depends on you. Visiting the schools helps to narrow the list.

## **When do I have to make my decision?**

For regular decision candidates, all colleges require notification by May 1. You are not required to submit a deposit before then, although to guarantee housing for some colleges, you may be asked to do so. Send only one deposit on May. It is a good idea to let the other schools know you are not accepting. That will free up spots they can fill from their wait lists.

## **Should I apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse?**

If you are interested in participating in intercollegiate athletics in Division I and II, you must submit the NCAA Clearinghouse form after eleventh grade. It is available on line. The Clearinghouse monitors eligibility for student athletes.