

College Application Q&A

Guide to the College Application Process

- ❖ The college application process can seem intimidating, especially for some of you who don't have parents and siblings who have already been through it and can offer advice.
- ❖ My goal is to answer questions you may have about college application, financial aid, deadlines, and more.

Four Different Types of College Deadlines

- ❖ Submitting your application within the deadline is the single most important part of the admission process.
- ❖ Take the time to put together an outstanding application, complete with a brilliant personal essay and impressive recommendation letters.

Regular Decision Deadline

- ❖ This is the most common type of deadline that applies to most applications. Regular decision college application deadlines are typically around the beginning of January. Colleges send the acceptance letters sometime in March. You have until the end of April to accept (May 1st is known as College Decision Day).

Pros of Regular Decision

- ❖ Plenty of time to complete your application.
- ❖ Apply to as many schools as you'd like.
- ❖ Time for test retakes.

Cons of Regular Decision

- ❖ May be a lot to tackle in the final months of your senior year with scholarships, finals, and other responsibilities.
- ❖ Less actual time to prepare for college.
- ❖ Meaning you also have less time to choose a school.

Early Decision Deadlines

- ❖ Early decision deadlines allow students to apply early. The school reviews these applications early and students also receive an early response from the college. This is a great option for students who have their heart set on one particular college.
- ❖ However, if a college is not first on your list or if you have any hesitation whatsoever, it is not advisable to apply as an early decision. When you apply through an early decision deadline and a college accepts you, you cannot break your contract.
- ❖ The deadlines for early decision are usually somewhere between the 1st and 15th of November. Some as early as October 15th.

Pros of Early Decision

- ❖ Shows School you're set on attending there and it's your first choice.
- ❖ This shows commitment.
- ❖ You get a faster response.
- ❖ If you're declined, you have plenty of time to apply to other colleges.

Cons of Early College

- ❖ It's a binding contract that comes with a huge fee if you try to cancel.
- ❖ Your application is due sooner.
- ❖ You can apply to only one college.

Early Action Deadline

- ❖ Early action deadlines also allow you to send in your college application early but unlike early decision deadlines, it is not binding. You may apply to multiple colleges under early application. Thus, expect an early response from all colleges that you apply to.
- ❖ There are a couple of differences between early decision and early action.
- ❖ Firstly, with early action, you are not obliged to attend any one particular college. You can apply to multiple colleges and choose any one from among those that have accepted you.
- ❖ Secondly, you do not have to pay any deposit while sending in your application. You only pay the deposit at the same time as the regular decision applicants.
- ❖ Early action deadlines are usually set at the same time as early decision deadlines, which is generally between the 1st and 15th of November.

Pros of Early Action

- ❖ Unlike Early Decision, Early Action is not binding.
- ❖ You receive an early response.
- ❖ So more time to decide on a school.
- ❖ There can be higher acceptance rates at some colleges.

Cons of Early Action

- ❖ Your application is due sooner.
- ❖ It's easy to let your financial grades slip when you know you have been accepted.

Rolling Admission Deadline

- ❖ With rolling admissions, the deadline is the same as the regular decision deadline. The only difference is that colleges that offer rolling admissions do not wait till after the deadline to send out acceptance letters. They start

evaluating the applications as they come in and send out letters as soon as they've made a decision.

- ❖ When applying to a college that has a rolling admissions system, it is always a good idea to apply as early as possible.

Pros of Rolling Admission

- ❖ There is plenty of time to complete your application.
- ❖ You know quickly if you turn in your application quickly.

Cons of Rolling Admission

- ❖ Turning it in later could hurt your admission chances.
- ❖ Not all colleges have rolling admission as a choice.

Steps in Applying

NC Residency -determines student residency for North Carolina

- ❖ If applying to NC colleges must complete NC Residency at www.NCresidency.org before applying. Students use your CFNC.org username and password to log in.

College Applications

- ❖ Apply using the application required by the college
 - Colleges application on their website
 - Common Application - <http://www.commonapp.org/> - used by some colleges
 - www.CFNC.org – used by North Carolina Colleges
 - Coalition Application - <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- ❖ Make sure you use a personal email address on all college application materials, financial aid and scholarships

Other documentation requested by colleges in addition to application

- ❖ Transcripts
 - Student must request through Scoir.
 - If the college requires or the student needs a paper copy of their transcript we will prepare it in a sealed envelope and STUDENT must pick it up and mail it. We DO NOT mail transcripts.
- ❖ Test Scores
 - Must be sent from the testing agency.
 - If the college was listed when you took test the college will have it on file
 - If the college was not listed when tested then students must pay to have scores sent through online account with ACT or SAT.
- ❖ Recommendations (if required)
 - Teacher at PRHS – student must request Scoir.
 - Personally ask teacher before requesting through Scoir, always give a thank you note, must give at least 20 days' notice