

Application Terminology 101

As you have probably encountered, colleges and universities use a variety of processes to admit students. Below are a few of the terms used regarding application types and time periods. If you have questions regarding the best time to apply to a specific school, call the admissions office and ask!

Rolling Decision (ROLL): Applications are processed as they are received. Notification of a decision will be within a couple of months or weeks, depending on the time of year. Schools that use this application process typically have a pre-determined set of academic standards students must meet.

Early Decision (ED): This is a legally binding application period and is the earliest possible application period. Students may apply to only **one** school during ED and should apply only if they are absolutely committed to attending that school if admitted. An ED form must be signed by the student, a parent, and the counselor and submitted at the time of application.

Early Action (EA): This is the earliest non-binding application period. The deadline for EA is usually November, and notification of a decision is in December. Schools that use this application process typically employ a holistic approach and determine the standards for admission based on the quality of the applicant pool as a whole.

Restrictive Early Action (REA): Students applying Restrictive Early Action to a school may not apply to any other college or university during their *binding Early Decision* process. Some schools may have further restrictions regarding applying to other schools during this time period. Be sure to check each school's admission requirements.

Admission Decisions

Colleges and universities grant a variety of decisions regarding admission. Below are a few terms regarding admission decisions. If you receive an admission decision with which you need help understanding, please see Mrs. Smeltzley.

Admitted: Congratulations! You have been accepted to the college.

Denied: You have been denied admission to the college. This decision is usually final.

Deferred: If you have been deferred by a Rolling Decision school, you will need to provide updated academic information for further consideration. This includes new SAT/ACT test scores and/or senior-year grades. If you do not provide updated academic information, you will not be granted admission. If you have been deferred by a school during Early Action, Restrictive Early Action, or Early Decision, you will be deferred to the next application period, which is Regular Decision. You may provide updated academic information for review. A new decision will be granted at the end of that application period.

Waitlisted: This decision is usually granted at the end of Regular Decision in the spring. If you are added to the waitlist of a college, you may remain in consideration for admission until late May or June. There is no guarantee that admission will ever be offered. Remaining on a waitlist is optional. If you would like to remain on a waitlist, communicate your continued interest to your admission counselor. If you decide to attend another college, remove your name from any other schools' waitlists.