

What to Know About Applying Early for US Schools

If students find a college that they are sure is the right fit for them they can consider applying early. Early Decision and Early Action plans allow students to apply early (usually in November) and get an admission decision early (usually by Dec. 15).

Early Decision plans are binding

Students agree to attend the college if it accepts them and offers an adequate financial aid package. Students can apply **to only one college** for Early Decision. Students may also apply to other colleges through the regular admission process, but if they are accepted by their Early Decision college early, they **MUST** withdraw all other applications no matter the country. They **MUST** attend the early decision school, otherwise there will be penalties.

Early Action plans are nonbinding

While the college will tell students whether or not they are accepted by early January, students have the right to wait until May 1 before responding. This gives students time to compare colleges, including their financial aid offers, before making a decision. Students can apply Early Action to more than one college.

If students are not 100% positive about a school, then they SHOULD NOT apply for Early Decision.

Early Decisions should only be used if they are 100% sure they want to get into a highly competitive school, it is their absolute top choice, and there is no way their minds will change.

If counsellors have students interested in Early Decision, please contact Rosedale Guidance Team FIRST before allowing the student to apply.

Not every college offers an early plan

More than 400 colleges offer an Early Decision plan, an Early Action plan, or both; but that is less than 20 percent of all colleges.