

COLLEGE TERMS

EARLY DECISION - ED is a plan under which a student applies to their first choice college early in the Fall of senior year (usually by November 1 or December 1) and signs a binding contract agreeing to enroll in that college if offered admission. The student, the parents, and the counselor sign this contract. Decisions are made mid to late December based on grades, course rigor, and test scores (if submitted) through junior year. If not accepted under Early Decision, a student may be denied. If accepted, the student must withdraw all other applications. A student may decline an acceptance **only** if the financial aid package offered is insufficient and family cannot afford school. Please read all information carefully before signing an ED Agreement.

EARLY ACTION - EA follows the same application/notification timetable as Early Decision, but it is not binding. Students are given until May 1 to decide to accept or decline the acceptance. Students may also be deferred to the regular pool or denied admission outright. It is important to check with the college for the procedure it follows under EA.

SINGLE CHOICE EARLY ACTION - similar to Early Action; students apply early and receive a decision without obligation to attend. However, students may not apply to any other college under an early policy whether Early Action or Early Decision. (Also referred to as **Restricted Early Action**.)

REGULAR DECISION - college or university will set a deadline for all applications and school materials; generally early January or February. All applications will be read and decisions rendered by April.

ROLLING ADMISSION - a college will review applications as the "folders" (the application form and all support materials) are completed. Some will return decisions within a few weeks after the completed folder is reviewed regardless of time of year. Others will accumulate applications and return decisions after a certain date. In case of rolling admission, early fall submission is highly recommended.

OPEN ADMISSIONS - some colleges do not have a selective admission policy and offer admission to all students who apply. Remedial and developmental assistance are usually offered to students who require academic support.

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST - beyond test scores and grades, colleges may also evaluate students based on how interested they are in the school; this Demonstrated Interest can be an important part of the application process. Students can demonstrate interest in a college through campus or virtual visits, attending college fairs, admissions interviews, or even emailing an admissions representative. Colleges want to accept students who plan to enroll, so demonstrating a clear interest in a school can help a student stand out.

NATIONAL DECISION DAY or MAY 1 - student must submit one enrollment deposit to chosen college/university to secure a "seat" in the class. Read materials carefully to determine if a housing deposit is also required for residential colleges.

COLLEGE BOARD - a non-profit organization governed by college and secondary members. The College Board is the oversight agency for many tests and services connected with the college admissions process ex. PSAT, SAT, Advanced Placement (AP).

PSAT/NMSQT - (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) - practice test designed to prepare sophomores and juniors for the SAT. Top scoring students are considered for the award of merit scholarships.

SAT - usually taken in both junior and senior year. This aptitude test consists of two tests evaluating critical reading, math, and verbal abilities. The highest possible score for each test is 800 and the highest combined score for the two tests is 1600. Most colleges will review all scores sent from each sitting and render decisions based on the highest combination score regardless of dates.

ACT - is a curriculum based test, designed by a non-profit agency and administered for use within the college admissions process. The required portion of the ACT is divided into four multiple choice subject tests: English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The scores range from 1 to 36 in each area with an average submitted as a composite score. Some colleges may require students to take the additional writing test, however, most colleges accept the ACT without the optional writing section.

SUPERSCORE - is the selection of the best section scores combined for a new total score. If a college permits superscoring of standardized test scores, the student must send multiple test dates for Admissions to do so. Score results from SAT and ACT cannot be added together.

***IMPORTANT NOTE** - *Since admissions policies differ between colleges, read all material from each college carefully and ask questions if you do not understand the policies completely.*