

## **ADMISSION DECISION OPTIONS**

### **EARLY DECISION**

Only if you are 100% sure this is the college for you! Students apply by an earlier deadline (usually in November) and find out the decision before the regular decision time. Here is the catch, if you are accepted you **MUST** attend that college and withdraw your applications from all other schools. It is a binding agreement. The upswing is there is a slightly better chance of being accepted under early decision than regular because they know you must come there. Be cautious, this also means students do not get to compare financial aid packages. You can only apply to one school early decision.

### **EARLY ACTION**

This option allows the student to apply to a college and receive an admission decision well before the regular decision time, however, this is not binding. It also does not typically carry the slight advantage in being accepted that the early decision does. You can apply to more than one school early action.

### **REGULAR DECISION**

This option requires a student to apply by a given date in return for a promise of notification by a given date. Allows colleges to review most of its applications before notifying the majority of its candidates.

### **ROLLING ADMISSIONS**

This option allows students to receive an admissions decision as soon as their files are complete and reviewed. Colleges usually do not state deadlines although the rule of thumb is the earlier the better because programs fill up along the way. This option is used by the PA State Schools, Penn State and many of the larger universities.

Colleges may have individual variations on these options which can make it even more confusing. For example, Yale uses a First Choice Early Action which means it is not binding but you can't apply to any school early decision under their terms.

Although there are some general patterns in what types of schools use what options you must check with the schools you are interested in to determine the best strategy for your college selection process.