

# DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

### Regular Decision

**DEFINITION:**

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

### Rolling Admission

**DEFINITION:**

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

### Early Action (EA)

**DEFINITION:**

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

### Early Decision (ED)

**DEFINITION:**

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

**COMMITMENT:**

BINDING

### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

**DEFINITION:**

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

**COMMITMENT:**

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.