

Early Action and Early Decision

Early Action is non-binding, meaning that an admitted student can still decide not to attend. Early Decision, on the other hand, is binding. Students applying Early Decision agree to enroll if accepted and offered an adequate financial aid package.

While some schools allow students to apply to multiple Early Action/Decision programs, most will require a student who is accepted Early Decision to withdraw applications from other colleges. Highly selective institutions—for example, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Notre Dame, and Yale—have restrictive policies that limit a student to one early application.

Further complicating matters is the presence of 1 and 2 as labels for different early application windows. Early 1 is usually in October or November with Early 2 in December or January, but sometimes as late as February. Generally, colleges will notify Early 1 students by the end of December and Early 2 by the end of February. Both allow ample time for decision making before the standard May 1 decision deadline.

WHAT DO EARLY APPLICATIONS MEAN FOR TESTING?

Your counselor can help you determine whether applying Early Action or Early Decision at your top college is right for you. However, if you're considering applying early, you will want to make sure that you have a complete set of scores that shows you at your best. We recommend most students plan early and have one or two scores ready by the end of junior year. Students who have waited until 12th Grade to take any test should not delay. In many cases, the September ACT and October SAT are the last test dates that offer reliable delivery of scores before the earliest of early deadlines. The July ACT (not available in NY) and August SAT have also become popular dates for tying up testing. If you get your testing finished early, you'll be well positioned for early applications.

Please note that application deadlines and testing policies are subject to review from year-to-year and may have changed since the date of publication. Use this resource as a starting point for which schools offer early programs and on what timelines, but always refer to the school's website for the most current information.

Schools marked with a caret (^) have restrictive or single choice early action policies.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Adelphi University	Dec 1			
Agnes Scott College	Nov 15	Jan 15	Nov 1	
Albion College	Dec 1			
Allegheny College	Dec 1		Nov 1	
American University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Amherst College			Nov 7	
Auburn University	Oct 15	Nov 15		
Augustana College	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Austin College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Babson College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 2
Bard College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 1
Barnard College			Nov 1	
Bates College			Nov 20	Jan 15

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Baylor University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Beloit College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Bennington College	Dec 1		Nov 15	Jan 15
Bentley University			Nov 15	Jan 15
Berea College	Nov 1	Jan 31		
Berry College	Nov 1			
Binghamton University—SUNY	Nov 1			
Biola University	Nov 30	Jan 15		
Boston College			Nov 1	Jan 1
Boston University			Nov 1	Dec 1
Bowdoin College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Bradley University	Nov 1			
Brandeis University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15



For updates, visit compassprep.com/early-action-early-decision-deadlines or scan the QR code on this page.

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Brown University			Nov 1	
Bryn Mawr College			Nov 15	Jan 1
Bucknell University			Nov 1	Jan 10
Butler University	Nov 1		Nov 1 (Nursing program only)	
California Institute of Technology^	Nov 1			
California Lutheran University	Nov 15			
Carleton College			Nov 15	
Carnegie Mellon University			Nov 1	
Carroll College	Nov 1			
Case Western Reserve University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Centre College	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
Chapman University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Christopher Newport University	Dec 1		Nov 15	
Claremont McKenna College			Nov 1	Jan 10
Clark University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Clarkson University			Dec 1	
Clemson University	Oct 15			
Coe College	Dec 10		Nov 15	
Colby College			Nov 15	Jan 1
Colgate University			Nov 1	Jan 15
College of Charleston	Nov 1		Nov 1	Feb 1
College of St. Benedict	Nov 1	Dec 1		
College of the Holy Cross			Nov 15	Jan 15
College of William & Mary			Nov 1	Jan 5
Colorado College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Colorado State University	Nov 15			
Columbia University			Nov 1	
Connecticut College			Nov 15	Jan 15
Cornell University			Nov 1	
Creighton University	Nov 1			
Dartmouth College			Nov 1	
Davidson College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Denison University			Nov 15	Jan 15
DePaul University	Nov 15			
DePauw University	Nov 1	Dec 15	Nov 1	Dec 15
Dickinson College			Nov 15	Jan 15
Drake University	Dec 1			
Drew University	Dec 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Drexel University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Duke University			Nov 4	
Duquesne University	Nov 15			
Earlham College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Elmhurst College	Nov 1			
Elon University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Emerson College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 3
Emory University			Nov 1	Jan 1
Fairfield University	Nov 1		Nov 15	Jan 15

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Florida A&M University	Nov 1			
Florida International University	Nov 1			
Florida State University	Oct 15 (FL residents only)			
Fordham University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 3
Franklin and Marshall College			Nov 15	Jan 6
Furman University	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
George Mason University	Nov 1			
George Washington University			Nov 1	Jan 5
Georgetown University	Nov 1			
Georgia Institute of Technology (EA1 = GA residents only; EA2 = non-GA residents only)	Oct 15	Nov 3		
Georgia State University	Nov 15			
Gettysburg College	Dec 1		Nov 15	Jan 15
Gonzaga University	Nov 15			
Goucher College	Nov 15			
Grinnell College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Gustavus Adolphus College	Nov 1			
Hamilton College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Hampden-Sydney College	Oct 15	Dec 1	Nov 1	
Hampton University	Nov 15			
Hanover College	Nov 1	Dec 15		
Harvard University^	Nov 1			
Harvey Mudd College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Haverford College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Hendrix College	Nov 15	Feb 1		
High Point University	Nov 15		Nov 1	Feb 1
Hillsdale College			Nov 1	
Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Nov 15		Nov 15	Jan 15
Hofstra University	Nov 15	Dec 15		
Hollins University	Nov 15		Nov 1	
Howard University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Illinois Institute of Technology	Nov 1		Nov 15	
Illinois Wesleyan University	Nov 15			
Indiana University,—Bloomington	Nov 1			
Ithaca College	Dec 1		Nov 1	
James Madison University	Nov 1			
Johns Hopkins University			Nov 1	Jan 2
Kalamazoo College	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Kenyon College			Nov 15	Jan 15
Knox College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Lafayette College			Nov 15	Jan 15
Lake Forest College	Nov 1	Jan 15	Nov 1	Jan 15
Lawrence University	Nov 1	Dec 1	Nov 1	
Lehigh University			Nov 1	Jan 1
Lewis & Clark College	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Loyola Marymount University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 8
Loyola University Maryland	Nov 15		Nov 15	Jan 15

COMPASS GUIDE | EARLY ACTION AND EARLY DECISION

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Loyola University New Orleans	Nov 15			
Macalester College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 1
Marist College	Nov 15		Nov 15	Feb 15
Marquette University	Nov 15			
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Nov 1			
Mercer University	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Miami University, Oxford	Nov 1	Dec 1	Nov 1	
Michigan State University	Nov 1			
Middlebury College			Nov 1	Jan 1
Millsaps College	Nov 15			
Montclair State University	Dec 1			
Morehouse College	Dec 15		Nov 1	
Mount Holyoke College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Muhlenberg College	Dec 9		Nov 20	Feb 1
New College of Florida	Nov 1			
New Jersey Institute of Technology	Nov 15	Dec 15		
New School (Some Schools)	Nov 12			
New York University			Nov 1	Jan 1
North Carolina State University—Raleigh	Nov 1			
Northeastern University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 1
Northwestern University			Nov 1	
Oberlin College			Nov 15	Jan 2
Occidental College			Nov 15	Jan 10
Ohio State University	Nov 1			
Ohio University	Nov 15			
Ohio Wesleyan University	Dec 1		Nov 15	
Old Dominion University	Dec 1			
Oregon State University	Nov 1			
Pennsylvania State University	Nov 1			
Pepperdine University	Nov 1			
Pitzer College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Point Loma Nazarene University	Nov 15			
Pomona College			Nov 8	Jan 8
Pratt Institute	Nov 15			
Presbyterian College (SC)	Nov 1			
Princeton University^	Nov 1			
Providence College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Purdue University	Nov 1			
Queens University of Charlotte	Nov 15	Jan 15	Nov 15	
Quinnipiac University	Nov 15		Nov 1	
Randolph-Macon College	Oct 17		Nov 15	
Reed College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Dec 20
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Dec 1		Nov 1	Jan 5
Rhode Island School of Design			Nov 1	
Rhodes College	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
Rice University			Nov 1	Jan 4

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Rochester Institute of Technology	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 1
Rollins College	Nov 15		Nov 15	Jan 5
Rutgers University—New Brunswick	Nov 1			
Rutgers University—Newark	Nov 1			
Saint Louis University	Dec 1		Nov 1	Jan 16
Santa Clara University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 7
Sarah Lawrence College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Scripps College			Nov 15	Jan 5
Seattle University	Nov 15			
Seton Hall University	Nov 15	Dec 15		
Sewanee—University of the South	Dec 1		Nov 15	Jan 15
Siena College	Dec 15	Jan 15	Nov 15	
Simmons College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
Skidmore College			Nov 1	Jan 8
Smith College			Nov 15	Jan 1
Soka University of America	Nov 1			
Southern Methodist University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Southwestern University	Dec 1		Nov 1	
Spelman College	Nov 1		Nov 1	
St. John Fisher College			Dec 1	
St. John's College Annapolis	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
St. John's University (NY)	Dec 1			
St. Lawrence University	Dec 1		Nov 1	Feb 1
St. Mary's College (IN)			Nov 15	
St. Mary's College of California	Nov 1			
St. Mary's College of Maryland	Nov 1		Nov 1	
St. Michael's College	Nov 1	Dec 1		
St. Olaf College	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Stanford University^	Nov 1			
Stetson University	Nov 15		Nov 1	
Stevens Institute of Technology	Dec 1		Nov 15	Jan 15
Stonehill College	Nov 1	Jan 15	Dec 1	Feb 1
SUNY—ESF	Nov 15			
SUNY—Geneseo	Nov 15			
SUNY—Stony Brook	Oct 15			
Susquehanna University	Nov 1	Dec 1	Nov 15	
Swarthmore College			Nov 15	Jan 4
Syracuse University			Nov 15	Jan 5
Temple University	Nov 1			
Texas A&M University —College Station	Oct 15 (Engineering only)			
Texas Christian University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Feb 1
Texas Lutheran University	Nov 15			
The Catholic University of America	Nov 1		Nov 1	Feb 1
The College of New Jersey	Nov 1		Nov 1	
The College of Wooster	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
The Cooper Union			Nov 1 or Dec 1 (varies by school)	

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
Towson University	Nov 1			
Transylvania University	Oct 31	Dec 1		
Trinity College (Hartford)			Nov 15	Jan 15
Trinity University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Feb 1
Tufts University			Nov 1	Jan 1
Tulane University	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
Union College (NY)	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
United States Coast Guard Academy	Oct 15			
University at Albany—SUNY	Nov 15			
University at Buffalo—SUNY	Nov 1			
University of Arkansas	Nov 1			
University of Central Florida	Oct 15			
University of Chicago	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 6
University of Cincinnati	Nov 1			
University of Colorado—Boulder	Nov 15			
University of Connecticut			Nov 1	
University of Dallas	Nov 1	Dec 1		
University of Dayton	Nov 1			
University of Delaware	Nov 1			
University of Denver	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
University of Florida	Nov 1			
University of Georgia	Oct 15			
University of Illinois—Chicago	Nov 1			
University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign	Nov 1			
University of Iowa	Nov 1			
University of Kentucky	Dec 1			
University of Maine	Dec 1			
University of Mary Washington	Nov 15		Nov 1	
University of Maryland	Nov 1			
University of Massachusetts—Amherst	Nov 5			
University of Miami	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 5
University of Michigan—Ann Arbor	Nov 1			
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities	Nov 1	Dec 1		
University of New Hampshire	Nov 15			
University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill	Oct 15			
University of North Carolina—Charlotte	Nov 1			
University of North Carolina—Greensboro	Nov 1			
University of North Carolina—Wilmington	Nov 1			
University of Notre Dame [^]	Nov 1			
University of Oklahoma	Nov 1			
University of Oregon	Nov 1			

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	EA 1	EA 2	ED 1	ED 2
University of Pennsylvania			Nov 1	
University of Portland	Dec 1			
University of Puget Sound	Nov 1		Nov 1	
University of Redlands	Nov 1	Dec 1		
University of Rhode Island	Dec 1		Nov 1	
University of Richmond	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 1
University of Rochester			Nov 1	Jan 5
University of San Francisco	Nov 1		Nov 1	
University of South Carolina	Oct 15			
University of Southern California	Nov 1		Nov 1 (Business school only)	
University of St. Thomas (MN)	Nov 1			
University of Tennessee	Nov 1			
University of the Pacific	Nov 15			
University of Tulsa	Nov 1	Feb 1	Nov 1	
University of Utah	Dec 1			
University of Vermont	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
University of Virginia	Nov 1		Nov 1	
University of Washington—Bothell	Nov 15			
University of Wisconsin—Madison	Nov 1			
Ursinus College	Nov 1		Dec 1	Feb 1
Vanderbilt University			Nov 1	Jan 1
Vassar College			Nov 15	Jan 1
Villanova University	Nov 1		Nov 1	Jan 15
Virginia Military Institute			Nov 15	
Virginia Tech	Nov 15			
Wabash College	Dec 1		Nov 15	
Wake Forest University	Nov 15		Nov 15	Jan 1
Washington and Jefferson College	Jan 15		Dec 15	
Washington and Lee University			Nov 1	Jan 1
Washington College	Dec 1		Nov 15	
Washington University in St. Louis			Nov 1	Jan 2
Wellesley College			Nov 1	Jan 1
Wesleyan University			Nov 15	Jan 1
Western Michigan University	Dec 15			
Westmont College	Oct 15	Nov 1		
Wheaton College (IL)	Oct 15	Nov 15		
Wheaton College (MA)	Nov 15		Nov 15	Jan 15
Whitman College			Nov 15	Jan 1
Whittier College	Nov 15			
Willamette University	Nov 1		Nov 1	
Williams College			Nov 15	
Wofford College	Nov 15		Nov 1	Jan 15
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Nov 1	Jan 15	Nov 1	Jan 15
Yale University [^]	Nov 1			
Yeshiva University			Nov 1	