

TYPES OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Regular Admission

Standard admission where students submit applications by the college's regular deadline. Students applying under regular admission will generally be notified of the decision in March or April.

Early Decision - Binding

Early decision is binding; that means if the college accepts you, you must attend. You can only apply under early decision to one college. Most often there is a contract the student must sign stating they understand the binding nature of this admission process.

Early Action – Not Binding

Early Action is an opportunity to apply early (usually by some November date) and to be notified by around mid-December or January. With early action, you can be accepted early, rejected, or deferred to the regular admission pool. If you are accepted under Early Action, you are NOT obligated to attend and you still have until May 1 to make a decision.



College Admissions Cont.

Admission Spring Semester

When colleges accept qualified students, but for a semester other than fall. This takes place so they can remain at full capacity, knowing they will lose some students after first semester. These students are ones that almost made the “cut” but had to be denied fall admission.

Rolling Admission

Applications are considered as they are received and the student is notified of the decision as soon as it is made. A student applying to a college that offers rolling admission is not committing to that college if accepted.

Open Admission

Open admission colleges, such as community colleges or trade schools, generally admit all interested students with a high school diploma.



HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD YOU APPLY TO?

Safety Schools — Start with your “safety schools”. They may not be the colleges you’ve dreamed of attending since you were a kid, but you have an excellent chance of receiving a college acceptance letter from them. Be careful picking out your safeties, because if you don’t get in anywhere else, they should be colleges you’re happy to attend.

Reasonable Schools — These are colleges at which you have a reasonably good chance of being accepted. They’re not near guarantees like safety schools, but based on the statistics of previous freshman classes, you should be competitive with the rest of the applicants. Reasonable choices can go either way, so you shouldn’t be surprised by either acceptance or rejection.

Reach Schools- Reach schools are colleges where your qualifications may fall a little short. They are worth applying to because you’d love to go there even if your grades or test scores do not meet their requirements. If you have reach schools in particular that you just must attend, it’s worth thinking about applying early action or early decision to help your chances of getting accepted.



APPLICATIONS

Written Applications

Your written application is one of the few things seen by an admission officer directly. The appearance of your application is a reflection on you. Always give yourself plenty of time to work on your application before the due date. Print out several applications to practice on. Make sure your application is written in black ink and error free. Be truthful and accurate! Most written applications have an application fee, which are generally around \$ 30-50. If you are on Free or Reduced lunch check with your counselor regarding a application fee waiver. With written application it is strongly advised that you get delivery confirmation and a receipt to prove you mailed it on time.

On-Line Applications

Most colleges are now accepting or even requiring, on-line applications. On-line applications solves the neatness issues that exist with written applications. With on-line applications it is easy to make and miss mistakes. You should still print out applications and practice before filling in on-line. Pay close attention to on-line instructions. With on-line applications you eliminate the worry of it becoming lost in the mail.

Texas Common Application/Apply Texas

The purpose of the Common Application is to allow students to complete one application and submit it to multiple universities. Information about this from and schools that accept it is available at www.commonapp.org.



PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR APPLICATION

Key pieces to your application:

High School Transcript — You must request copies of your high school transcript to be sent directly to your colleges to which you apply.

Standardized Test Scores — Most colleges and universities require that you submit SAT or ACT test scores. Some schools take your highest composite scores while others take the best combination of scores from different sections.

Letters of Recommendations — The letter should include your full name, in what capacity they know you, and the length of time they have known you. The person should attest to your capabilities and character.

Personal Essay — With your personal essay it is important to find your voice because this is the chance for the committee to get to know you beyond the numbers.

Housing Application — Most colleges require Freshmen to live in the dorm. When filling out your housing application make sure to research the different types of dorms available and the deposit required to secure you a dorm room.

Deadlines — Make sure you meet all application deadlines. In most cases, you need to have a completed application file by the deadline, which means that all documents must be turned in by that date. Most applications need to be postmarked by the deadline, but check with your school to make sure.



TEXAS TOP TEN PERCENT RULE

What is the Texas Top Ten Percent Rule?

High school students who graduate in the top ten percent of their high school class are guaranteed automatic admission to any public university in Texas (excluding UT Austin).

These students must still apply to the university to be accepted.

Due to the tremendous increase in applications to UT Austin and pressure from UT, the legislature capped the automatic admissions to UT Austin to top eight percent of high school graduates. This cap will remain in place through 2015 and then the cap will be removed. The Texas Legislature will then have to decide whether to reauthorize the cap at UT Austin.



THE TEXAS COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEMS

The TCCNS Systems provides a shared, uniform set of course designation for students and their advisors to use in determining both course equivalency and degree applicability of transfer credit on a statewide basis. When students transfer between two participating TCCNS institutions , a course taken at the sending institution transfers as the course carrying, or cross-referenced with the same TCCNS designation at the receiving institution.