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TYPES OF COLLEGE SELECTIVITY AND ADMISSIONS TERMS

Types of College Selectivity

1. **Open Admissions Colleges** – Accept virtually all students who apply if they have a high school diploma. (All Community Colleges, Technical and Trade Colleges and some 4-year colleges).

2. **Selective Colleges** – Offer admission to most of their applicants who meet their entrance requirements.

3. **Highly Competitive Colleges** – Competition is tough. Even though you meet admission requirements, you cannot be sure of admission. Acceptance is generally less than 50-60 percent.

Admission Terms and Processes

Highly Selective College Admission Calendar – Many college admission office timetables call for applications to be filed during the fall or early winter of the senior year. Supporting data (standardized test scores, high school records and recommendations) are sent to the college at the STUDENT'S REQUEST by completing the TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM. Members of the admission office or admission committee retreat from late February to late March to read applications and to make decisions. Decisions are mailed to applicants from early to mid-April, and accepted applicants are required to notify the college that they choose or decline the offer to attend no later than May 1 (the CRD or Candidate's Reply Date).

Early Decision Applicants – Early Decision is the application process by which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution and whereby, if admitted, the student definitely will enroll. Should a student who applies for financial aid not be offered an award that makes attendance possible, the student may decline the offer of admission and be released from the Early Decision commitment. Only a student who is ready to make a deliberate and well-reasoned first-choice decision should apply under an Early Decision Plan. You **MUST** have completed all college tests required by your college of choice (i.e., SAT I/ACT and SAT II tests).

Early Action – Early Action is the application process by which students make application to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Students who are admitted under Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission or to submit a deposit until the regular reply date (not prior to May 1). There are several variations of early decision and early action at different colleges. Read the literature of each college carefully, and ask questions if you don't understand the program completely. Do not hesitate to contact the college admissions office with questions!

Rolling Admission – Rolling Admission is the system in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and renders admission decisions to students throughout the admission cycle.



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Regular Decision – Regular Decision is the system in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified date and receives a decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time, but not later than April 15.

Common Application – The online system that allows a student to fill out one application form (the “Common Application”) and send it to more than one college. You should check with the admission office to see if a college will accept the common application and if any supplements are required. The common application form is available online at www.commonapp.org, where you can either download the form or submit your application(s) electronically.

January (Spring Term) Admission – Some colleges admit freshmen to begin study in the middle of the academic year. January admission may be an option worthy of investigation for students who might graduate a term or semester early from high school.

Deferred Admission – Many colleges offer an opportunity for a student who has been admitted to delay or defer enrollment for a year or a semester. Students who defer an offer of admission may choose to work for a while to earn money for college or to travel or to pursue special programs. A deposit is often required by the college to hold a place in the next entering class, and it is the college’s right to expect the student to be able to account for the time spent between graduation from high school and actual matriculation at the college. The student who defers admission to a college cannot attend another college during the time off, unless the college is notified in advance and agree to the plan.

Tuition Deposit – Also known as the admission deposit, commitment deposit, or commitment fee. A college usually requires a student who has been admitted to verify intention to enroll by submission of a deposit or fee to be applied (usually) to the student’s tuition charges for the upcoming academic year. Colleges that are members of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) agree to allow accepted applicants the opportunity to learn the decisions of all colleges they have applied to before requiring tuition deposits, provided that all decisions are made before May 1. The student, in turn, is obligated to submit a tuition deposit to only one college before its required deadline (usually May 1). Colleges view dual or multiple deposits by students as serious violations of trust and may revoke a previous offer of admission from any student who is found to have sent tuition deposits to more than one college.

Wait List – This is an admission decision option utilized by institutions to protect against shortfalls in enrollment. Wait lists are sometimes made necessary because of the uncertainty of the admission process, as students submit applications for admission to multiple institutions and may receive several offers of admission. By placing a student on the wait list, an institution does not initially offer or deny admission, but extends to a candidate the possibility of admission in the future, before the institution’s admission cycle is concluded.