

College Planning Terms

Admission Terminology

- Application Filing Process – The periods during which applications may be submitted.
- Candidates Reply Date – UC’s and many independent colleges require admitted students to indicate their intention to enroll by submitting a statement and/or deposit by a specified date.
- Eligibility – High school grades, completion of specified subjects, test scores, autobiography, interview, awards, activities and other evidences of past or potential achievement which may be required to determine admission to an institution.
- Exceptions/Special Action Admission – A limited number of students may be admitted to some colleges as exceptions to the regular admission requirements based on special circumstances.
- Honors Points – The University of California and the California State University assign extra grade points for up to four yearlong UC-certified honors level, Advanced Placement, and/or UC-designated International Baccalaureate courses taken in grades 10, 11, and 12. College-level courses in the “a-g” college preparatory subjects that are transferable to the University of California, for the UC gpa, and to the California State University, for the CSU gpa, are also assigned honors grade points. A maximum of two yearlong courses taken in grade 10 are assigned honors points. Grades of D are not assigned extra honors points.
- Impacted Programs – Some majors at some colleges that receive more applications than program space available. Impacted program applicants normally must apply during a specified time period and participate in a competitive selection process.
- Matriculation – The process of initially enrolling in college through payment of fees and registration of classes. It may also include an orientation, assessment, and a counseling and advising component at California Community Colleges.
- Non-Restrictive Application Plans – All of these plans allow students to wait until May 1 to confirm enrollment.
 - Regular Decision is the application process 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. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.
 - Rolling Admission is the application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and renders admissions decisions to students through the admission cycle. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.

- Early Action (EA) is the application process in which students apply 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 prior to May 1.
- Resident/Non-Resident Status – Student status based on place of legal residence. Non-residents (out-of-state/foreign students) who attend public colleges must pay higher fees and often meet higher admissions requirements than resident students. Does not apply to students who attend independent or private colleges.
- Restrictive Application Plans – These are plans that allow institutions to limit students from applying to other early plans.
 - Early Decision (ED) is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. While pursuing admission under an Early Decision plan, students may apply to other institutions, but may have only one Early Decision application pending at any time. 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. The institution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the Early Decision deadline. Usually, a nonrefundable deposit must be made well in advance of May 1. The institution will respond to an application for financial aid at or near the time of an offer of admission. Institutions with Early Decision plans may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their Early Decision agreement.
 - Restrictive Early Action (REA) is the application process in which students make application to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date. Institutions with Restrictive Early Action plans place restrictions on student applications to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate these restrictions in their Early Action policies and agreements with students. Students who are admitted under Restrictive Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission or to submit a deposit prior to May 1.
- Registration – The time students select classes and pay fees.