



Student Bulletin

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High School Edition

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Admission Guide

Pick Your College: Questions to Consider

Financial Aid Questions

What type of financial aid packages does the school offer? How are outside scholarships handled?

What tuition increases are planned in the next few years, if any? What has been the average tuition increase in years past?

What kind of work is available? Wages and hours?

Are there refunds available if you need to leave school for any reason?

Campus Life Questions

How diverse is the campus? How does the school promote diversity?

What is the crime rate on campus and in the surrounding neighborhood?

What student organizations are on campus?

What services does the student health clinic provide? What about 24-hour emergency care?

Academics/Career Questions

How does the school help graduates find jobs?

What percentage of graduates from the school find jobs in their field of study?

What is the retention rate (how many students come back after their freshman year)?

What is the classroom environment like? How much student-teacher interaction is there? Are you able to visit the campus and sit in on a class?

How many computers/computer labs are there? Are they up-to-date and accessible to all students?

Early Decision (ED) vs. Early Action (EA)

ED and EA allow students to apply early to schools they know they want to attend. *What's the difference?*

Early Decision is binding. If accepted, you must attend that school and withdraw any applications sent to other schools. You won't be able to compare financial aid offers.

Early Action is not binding. Even if you are accepted, you may compare admissions and financial aid offers and wait to commit to the college until later in the year.

**Some schools now offer Single-Choice Early Action. This option is similar to Early Action, except that you may not apply early to other colleges (though you may apply regular decision).*

Many ED or EA deadlines occur in the fall. Ask your college whether ED or EA is an option and if you can apply early to other schools. Talk to your counselor and ask your prospective school for more information.

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Admissions Glossary: Key Terms

Award Letter: A letter telling you what financial aid (if any) your college is offering to you (includes types and amounts of aid offered, specific program information, etc.). You may choose to accept some or all of what is offered.

Credit (or Credit Hour): A unit of measurement institutions give for fulfilling course requirements. Most colleges require that you complete a certain number in order to graduate.

Cost of Attendance: Includes any cost associated with attending college: tuition and associated fees, room and board, books and supplies, etc.

Enrollment Status: Indication of whether you attend full or part time. In general, you must attend at least half time (or in some cases full time) to qualify for financial aid.

Expected Family Contribution: Amount students and their family are expected to contribute toward cost of attendance.

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students must fill out the FAFSA each year to find out how much federal aid they are eligible to receive. Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Open Admissions: Students are admitted regardless of academic qualifications.

Out-of-State Student: Generally applies to students attending a public university outside of their home state. Out-of-state students must pay a higher tuition rate unless they establish legal residency for that state.

Rolling Admissions: There is no set admissions deadline date; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled.

Undergraduate Student: A student who has not completed a baccalaureate or first professional degree.