

## Types of College Applications:

<b>Online vs. Paper</b>	Virtually 100% of colleges offer an online application. While many colleges still offer a paper application or have a downloadable (PDF) version, they prefer online applications because they cut down on processing time. However, colleges do not give preference to applicants who apply online.
<b>Common Application</b>	Is currently accepted by over 400 postsecondary institutions, some of which use this form exclusively. It can be obtained through the mail or by downloading it from <a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a> . It can also be filled out online. Once completed online or in print, you can send copies of the Application for Undergraduate Admission to as many participating colleges as you are applying to (aka one application for multiple schools). The same is true of the School Report, Optional Report, Midyear Report, Final Report and Teacher Evaluation forms. Some members of the Common Application group do require supplemental forms.
<b>Universal application</b>	The Universal College Application ( <a href="http://www.universalcollegeapp.com">www.universalcollegeapp.com</a> ) is similar to the Common Application and accepted by more than 80 colleges.
<b>School-specific applications</b>	Many states and large college systems will have their own specific applications, which can generally be found through their website and either submitted online or mailed in. Be sure to check the school's website for any application supplements they may have that you should submit alongside your main application.

## Admissions Options:

### **Non-Restrictive Application Plans:**

<b>Rolling Decision</b>	Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.
<b>Regular Decision</b>	Students submit an application by a specific date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
<b>Early Action (EA)</b>	Students apply early (typically between October – December) and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date (typically between December – February).

### **Restrictive Application Plans**

<b>Early Decision (ED)</b>	Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. You can apply ED to only one college. If the college accepts you and offers you enough financial aid, you must go to that college. That's why these plans are referred to as "binding." Some colleges have two early deadlines, called early decision deadline I and early decision deadline II. They both work the same way, but the second deadline gives you more time to decide whether to apply early. Although you may apply to additional colleges through the regular admission process, you must withdraw all other applications if you're accepted by this college.
<b>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</b>	You can apply early to only one college (restricted from applying to other institutions EA, ED or REA). Otherwise, these plans work the same as other early action plans. You can still apply to other colleges through the regular admission process. If offered enrollment, you don't have to give your final answer to the early application college until spring.