

Restrictive Early Action Policies 2014-2015

(from the college's websites)

Harvard University

Applying to Harvard under the Restrictive Early Action program empowers you to make a college choice early. Early applicants apply by the November 1 deadline and hear from us by December 15.

Early Action is a non-binding early program, meaning that if you are admitted you are not obligated to enroll. You have the flexibility and freedom to apply to other institutions during the regular decision round, and you have until May 1 to compare your admission and financial aid offers. We require that you apply only to Harvard College during the Early Action round. (See the frequently asked questions below for policy clarification.)

Harvard does not offer an advantage to students who apply early. Higher Early Action acceptance rates reflect the remarkable strength of Early Action pools. For any individual student, the final decision will be the same whether the student applies Early Action or Regular Decision.

Answering your policy questions

- If I apply restrictive early action to Harvard, may I apply to another private college's early action program (restrictive or not)?

No. However, you may apply Early Action to any public college/university or to foreign universities.

- If I apply restrictive early action to Harvard, may I apply to another college's early decision program?

After students receive notification from Harvard's Early Action program in mid-December, they are free to apply to any institution under any plan, including binding programs such as Early Decision II.

- I am also applying to colleges outside of the U.S. May I apply to them at the same time as I apply Early Action to Harvard?

Yes.

- May I apply to another college under its Regular Decision plan before I receive Harvard's decision on my Restrictive Early Action application?

Yes. You may apply in the fall to any institution under its Regular Decision program

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Notre Dame

Restrictive Early Action: November 1

- A student applying Early Action to Notre Dame may apply to other colleges with Early Action programs.
- A student applying Early Action to Notre Dame *may not* apply to any other college or university in their *binding* Early Decision process.
- Students do not indicate a first-choice preference by applying early, and still may wait until May 1 to indicate their decision to attend.

Students who apply in the Early Action process receive an admission decision before Christmas. Three decisions are possible:

- Admission to the University
- Denial of Admission to the University
- Deferral of Decision until Regular Decision

Students admitted to Notre Dame have until the May 1 deadline to decide whether they would like to confirm their attendance at the University. If a student is denied admission in Early Action, then the process ends and he/she cannot apply later during the Regular Decision process. If a student is deferred, the Admissions Committee has decided to review the application further in the Regular Decision process, and so “rolls over” the application to Regular Decision.

Because the Admissions Committee is unable to extend all of its offers of admission in the Early Action process, it is highly conservative when making Early Action admission decisions. The Admissions Committee advises students to apply in the Early Action process only if they are in the very top ranges of our applicant pool. Please review our current admissions statistics. This data reflects enrolled students and we typically admit at the higher end. Further clarification of Early Action standards for this year can be gained by seeing the Admissions Counselor who may travel near your area in the autumn or by contacting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at admissions@nd.edu.

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Princeton University

Under the nonbinding program, **you must complete your application by Nov. 1**. You may not apply to an early program at any other **private** college or university, but you may apply early to any **public** institution, as long as the decision is nonbinding. We will provide an **admission decision by mid-December**, including a decision on financial aid for those who have completed the Princeton Financial Aid Application.

Please also note the following:

- You may apply to any international institution, as long as the decision is nonbinding.
- You may apply to any college with a nonbinding rolling admission process.

There are three possible outcomes for those applying early to Princeton. We will either (a) offer admission, (b) deny admission or (c) defer a final decision on the application and review it again in the regular decision process.

If you are admitted for early action, you will have until May 1 to respond, enabling you to compare your admission and financial aid offers with those of other institutions where you may have applied under regular decision.

You are strongly encouraged to complete your standardized testing before the Nov. 1 deadline. If you take standardized tests in November, you should have your scores sent directly to Princeton.

Stanford University

Restrictive Early Action

Restrictive Early Action is a non-binding early application option for students who have completed a thorough college search and are confident Stanford is their first choice. Admission decisions are released by December 15, and admitted students have until May 1 to respond to their admission offer, which allows them to compare financial aid awards across institutions. To students who apply for financial aid, Stanford provides an estimated award at the time of admission. The application deadline for Restrictive Early Action is November 1.

3 Possible Restrictive Early Action Admission Decisions

1. Applicant is admitted and has until May 1 to respond to the admission offer.

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2. Applicant is denied and may not reapply for Regular Decision admission in the same year.
3. Applicant is deferred to Regular Decision and will receive a final decision by April 1.

Stanford's philosophy is to make final decisions whenever possible. As a result, only a small percentage of Restrictive Early Action applicants are deferred.

Restrictive Early Action Policy

- Applicants agree not to apply to any other private college/university under an Early Action, Restrictive Early Action, Early Decision or Early Notification program.
- Applicants may apply to other colleges and universities under their Regular Decision option.

Exceptions

- The student may apply to any college/university with early deadlines for scholarships or special academic programs as long as the decision is non-binding.
- The student may apply to any *public* college/university with a non-binding early application option.
- The student may apply to any college/university with a non-binding rolling admission process.
- The student may apply to any foreign college/university on any application schedule.

If you are considering applying to another college/university whose application option does not appear to qualify as an exception, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admission for clarification.

Change of Application Plan

If you originally applied under Restrictive Early Action and would like to be considered as a Regular Decision applicant, you must follow these instructions:

- Request a change in status by December 1 via email to credentials@stanford.edu. Applicants must confirm that the request has been received to ensure the change has been made.
- We cannot honor a request after December 1 and will evaluate your completed file under our Restrictive Early Action plan. Incomplete Restrictive Early Action files will not be converted automatically to Regular Decision; such files will be deemed incomplete/withdrawn and will not be reviewed for admission.

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Yale University

If you would like an admissions decision by mid-December, you may apply under Yale's Single-Choice Early Action program (otherwise known as Restrictive Early Action on Common Application forms). The program is like other non-binding plans in that candidates who are admitted early need not respond to the offer of admission until May 1, and may apply to other schools for Regular Decision. Being admitted to Yale early would, for example, still allow you to compare offers of financial aid in the spring.

Yale's Early Action plan is unlike many other programs in that if you apply for Single-Choice Early Action at Yale, you may not simultaneously apply for Early Action or Early Decision to any other school with a few exceptions (*see "Applying to Other Colleges and Universities" below). If you apply early to Yale, you are indicating that the only Early Action/Early Decision application you intend to file is Yale's, unless another early application is covered by one of the exceptions listed below.

For Single-Choice Early Action, the deadline to submit the Common Application and the Yale-specific questions and Writing Supplement, along with the application fee or fee waiver request is November 1. Students will be notified of the admissions committee's decision in mid-December. Admitted students will have until May 1 to accept an offer of admission.

The Single-Choice Early Action Application Process

To take part in this program, check the box for Restrictive Early Action in the Yale-specific questions section of the Common Application. Then submit those online forms no later than November 1. In mid-December Yale will send you its decision on your application. There are three possibilities:

1. An offer of admission to the freshman class
2. Denial of admission
3. Deferral for consideration in Regular Decision

The last of these, deferral, means that the admissions committee has deferred its decision and will re-consider your application along with the Regular Decision applicants. Deferred applicants will receive a final decision in April. Applicants denied admission under Single-Choice Early Action are not eligible for further consideration for admission during that application cycle.

Evaluation of Single-Choice Early Action Applications

Single-Choice Early Action candidates are evaluated in the same way as are those who apply for Regular Decision. Senior grades are not often available for early candidates, so consider the strength of your record at the point of application and have all your testing completed by early November if you use the Single-Choice Early Action program.

Although the Single-Choice Early Action submission deadline is November 1, we encourage you to submit your materials to us sooner. The earlier your application is completed - including the Common Application

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and Yale-specific questions, the necessary school documents, and your fee or fee waiver request - the sooner we can begin to evaluate it. While this will not result in a competitive advantage for applicants, it will allow ample time for review of your application.

***Applying to Other Colleges and Universities**

If you are a Single-Choice Early Action applicant to Yale, you may apply to another institution's early admission program as follows:

- You may apply to any college's non-binding rolling admission program.
- You may apply to any public institution at any time provided that admission is non-binding.
- You may apply to another college's Early Decision II program, but only if the notification of admission occurs after January 1. If you are admitted through another college's Early Decision II binding program, you must withdraw your application from Yale.
- You may apply to any institution outside of the United States at any time.