

UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION DEADLINES

EA, ED, EDII,
Rolling, REA, SCEA, RD

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The alphabet soup of application deadlines, while confusing, is important to understand. Strategic use of these deadlines can save time and money in terms of the number of applications submitted as well as increasing the probability for admittance. Check the infographic at the end of this newsletter for a broad overview of these deadlines.

Note: University of California and California State University campuses have only one deadline: November 30th.

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Types of Admissions:

EA: Early Action

ED: Early Decision

EDII: Early Decision 2

Rolling: Rolling Admissions

REA: Restricted Early Action

SCEA: Single Choice Early Action

RD: Regular Decision

STRATEGIC USE OF DEADLINES

EARLY ACTION:

Non-binding admission. Students can apply to multiple colleges, usually by Nov 1 or 15.

Pros:

- Potential small boost in admittance probability.
- Applications are submitted before Thanksgiving and decisions are often issued before Jan 1. A favorable outcome can reduce student stress.
- If accepted, you may decide NOT to apply to other schools saving time and money.
- If not accepted or deferred, you might decide to apply EDII to another school or expand your list.

Cons:

- Delayed Financial Aid awards could hinder a student's decision to accept an offer of admission.
- Requires a strong application, including GPA. If you need 1st semester senior year to show improved grades & strengthen your application, EA is not a good choice. You will likely be deferred or denied.
- No time to re-take the ACT or SAT. While many schools remain test-optional, historical data indicates these scores should be strong **if** using them when applying EA or ED.



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EARLY DECISION:

- **Binding** admission: students, parents & counselors sign an agreement to attend if admitted.
- You can apply to only one school ED.
- If accepted, you should withdraw other applications and attend your Early Decision college.
- ED applications are usually due in November. Some colleges have two rounds of EDI and EDII (fall and winter).
- Schools have started to use ED admittance more often filling 30-50% of their class from this deadline option.
- While ED statistically helps admittance probability, this is especially true for recruited athletes, legacy, or especially talented students.

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your Expected Family
Contribution**

Federal Student Aid
FAFSA4caster 

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This option commits you to enrolling if accepted unless financially impossible to do so. Students should be sure to run the college's Net Price Calculator and the FAFSA4caster to assess what the college may expect the family to pay. Colleges take the honor system of the ED very seriously. You should too.

Pros:

- May provide significant boost toward admittance.
- If accepted, you are done!
- If deferred, you are free to commit to other schools or the same RD or ED II.

Cons:

- Challenging to present a very strong application by early deadline.
- Committed to one school.
- Financial aid award may be insufficient. Withdrawing ED is frowned upon. Be aware of financial feasibility before submitting.

EARLY DECISION II:

- Also binding but comes later in the school year- January is the norm.
- By then students may have decisions from other schools. Their list may narrow or shift.
- Financial aid decisions are more likely to come with the acceptance decision.
- Run the Net Price Calculator and FAFSA forecaster to assess cost & affordability for family.

Pros:

- Small probability boost to admittance.
- Student may know more by then and feel comfortable committing.

Cons:

- Financial aid may be insufficient requiring student to make a case for not enrolling.
- Still limits a student's options once accepted.



ROLLING ADMISSIONS:

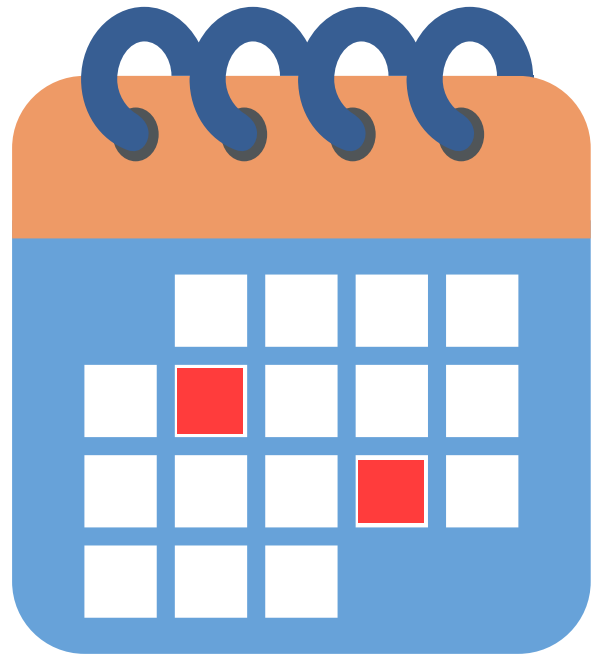
- Applications are reviewed upon submission year round in rolling admissions. Qualified and complete applications are accepted until the university reaches its capacity limit.
- Early application can work in a student's favor. However, apply early only if your application is strong, otherwise, wait for 1st semester senior year grades.
- Pay attention to deadlines for Honors programs.

RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION:

- Sometimes called Single Choice Early Action (SCEA).
- Offered primarily by highly selective schools (Ivy league and a few others).
- Restricts your ability to apply EA/ED to other colleges or universities.
- Specific restrictions vary by college so read their details carefully. Check for exceptions regarding public universities.
- Not binding.

Pros:

- Gets your application in early and decision comes early.
- This may help you get other school applications ready too if using the common app.



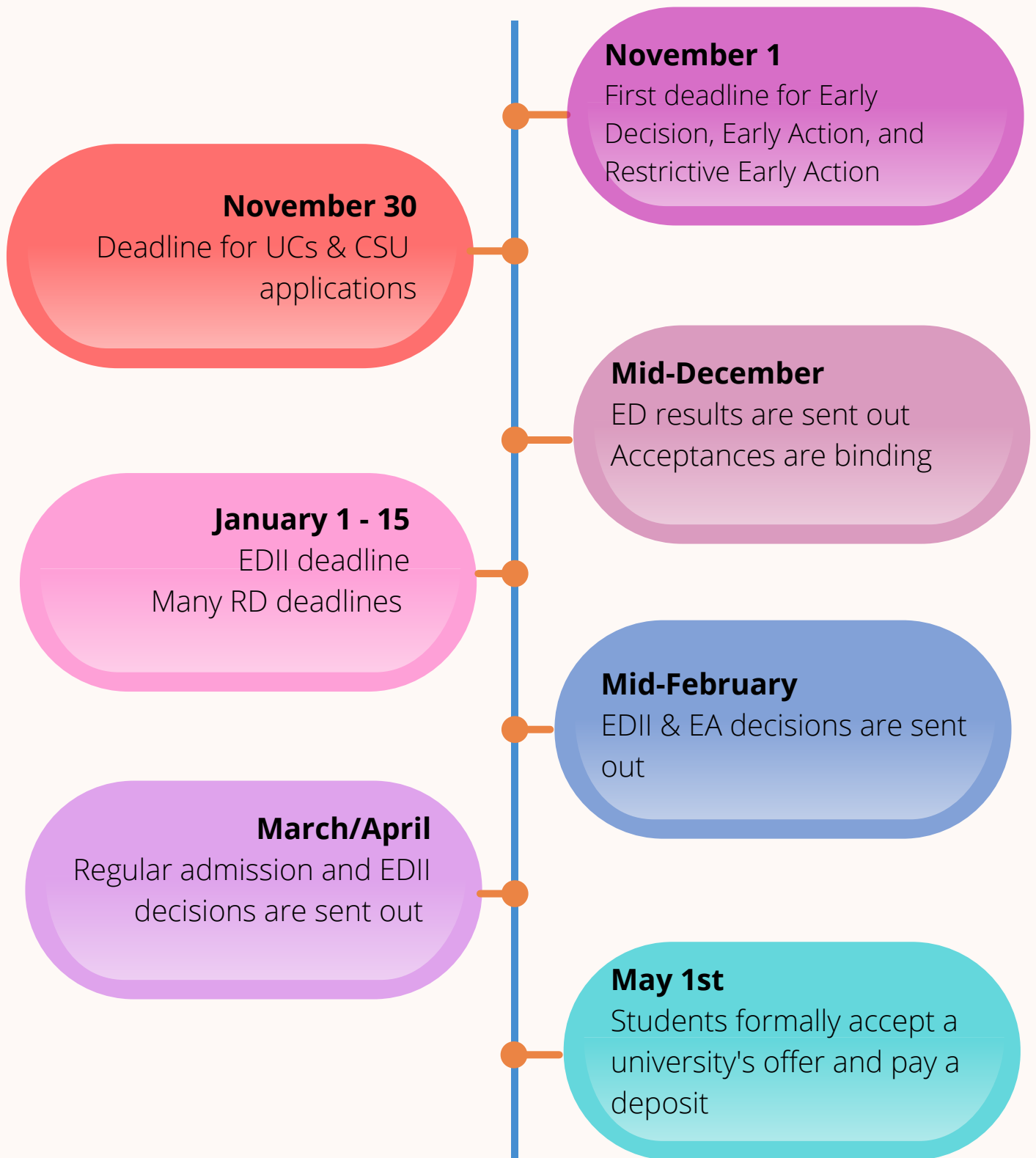
Cons:

- In most cases, cannot apply EA to other private schools.

REGULAR DECISION:

- Deadlines generally range from January 1 through February 15th, with notable exceptions at various public universities (ie University of California).
- Colleges send decisions between mid February and mid April.

Application Deadlines





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