

- I have a clear first-choice college and I'm 100% sure it's a VERY good fit for me.
- I've done careful research about the college, including the following:
  - Visited in person or website
  - Studied academic catalog, viewbook and other information available
  - Reviewed the college's profile in a "big book" (ie. Fiske Guide)
  - Connected with current or former students
- I will be comfortable with the financial aid that is offered to me and won't need to compare financial aid offers.
- My high school record speaks strongly for my ability to do the work at this college
- My overall record places me within the admissible range for this college.
- I will have time to thoughtfully prepare my application before the ED deadline, including letters of rec from my counselor and teachers.
- I would like to know for sure where I will be going to college as early as possible.
- I will do careful research on the rest of my college list and prepare applications in case I'm deferred or denied by my ED school.
- Although my ED college is my clear first choice, I understand that I may not be admitted and I will also be very happy attending other colleges.

*Adapted from "Admission Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know about Getting Into College," Second Edition, Page 142*

## DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



### STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

#### Non-Restrictive Application Plans

##### Regular Decision

###### DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

###### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

##### Rolling Admission

###### DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

###### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

##### Early Action (EA)

###### DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

###### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Restrictive Application Plans

##### Early Decision (ED)

###### DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

###### COMMITMENT:

BINDING

##### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

###### DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

###### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.