

## What are the main factors that colleges look at when making admissions decisions?

There are many factors that colleges look at when making admissions decisions, however, the main ones are grade point average (GPA), standardized test scores, and extracurricular activities.

## How many colleges should I apply to?

We recommend that students apply to 10-12 schools. However, if you have a good amount of safety and target schools, your list can be shorter.

## What are the differences between applying early action, early decision, and regular decision?

With early action, you can apply early and receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle. You do not have to commit upon receipt and are able to apply to other colleges. With early decision, you can apply early to your first-choice college and receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date. You are also able to apply to other colleges under regular admission plans. If you are applying early decision, it is binding and you are agreeing to attend the college if accepted and must withdraw all other applications. Regular decision is the normal process by which you apply by published deadlines, with promise of receiving an admissions decision no later than April 1st of your senior year.

## What are the benefits of applying early decision?

Applying early can reduce stress by cutting the time spent waiting for a decision, allow more time, once accepted, to look for housing and prepare for college, and provide the flexibility of applying elsewhere if not accepted.

## What are the drawbacks of applying early decision?

Students who apply early decision receive offers of admission and financial aid simultaneously and are supposed to withdraw their applications from all the other universities they've applied to.

## What are the CSU Application, UC Application, Common Application, and Institutional Applications?

The CSU Application is used for all the Cal State and Cal Poly universities. The UC Application is used for all the UC schools. The Common Application is used mostly by private schools and a



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few out-of-state schools. Institutional Applications are used by some private schools and some out-of-state schools as well.

## If I am applying to multiple CSU or UC schools, do I have to submit an application for each school?

No, for the CSU and UC schools, you only need to complete one application that will be sent to all the schools that you mark in the application.

## What are supplements to the Common Application?

In addition to the general Common Application, some colleges may require “supplements.” These are additional questions that colleges ask.



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