



Step Into Your Future:
Applying to College

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STEP 1: Understand College Admission Options

STEP 2: Identify the Key Criteria for College Admissions

STEP 3: Review the Components of a College Application Package

STEP 4: Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements

STEP 5: Complete the Process

STEP 1:

Understand College Admission Options

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Regular Decision

- The most common option for admission.
- Regardless of when you submit your application, you will be notified by early April.
- An ideal option for students who want to compare financial aid packages.

Step 1: Understand College Admission Options

Rolling Admission

- Students are notified as colleges make decisions.
- Decisions are usually sent out within four to ten weeks from the time the application is submitted.
- Many Pennsylvania state universities offer rolling admission.

Step 1: Understand College Admission Options

Early Decision

- If you know a school is your **first** and **only** choice, you should consider Early Decision.
- Early Decision is binding — if you are admitted, you must withdraw all other applications and enroll at that particular college.
- Applications are generally due mid-fall (usually in early to mid-November).
- Early Decision notifications are usually sent in December.
- If a student is not admitted through Early Decision, they will likely be deferred to the Regular Decision applicant pool.
- Does not offer you the option of comparing financial aid offers.

Futures Tip for Success: If the estimated financial aid package you receive with your acceptance is not sufficient for you to attend that school, you are able to forfeit your admission and apply to other schools.

Step 1: Understand College Admission Options

Early Action

- Ideal if you have identified a top choice, but still want to weigh your options.
- If you are admitted, you are not obligated to attend.
- Applications are generally due mid-fall.
- You have until the spring to make your final decision.

Futures Tip for Success: Do your research. If you find a school that is the perfect fit for you, apply Early Decision or Early Action – your chances of being admitted are greater. Generally, colleges will enroll between 20%-50% of the incoming class through early admission.

Step 1: Understand College Admission Options

National Candidates' Reply Date

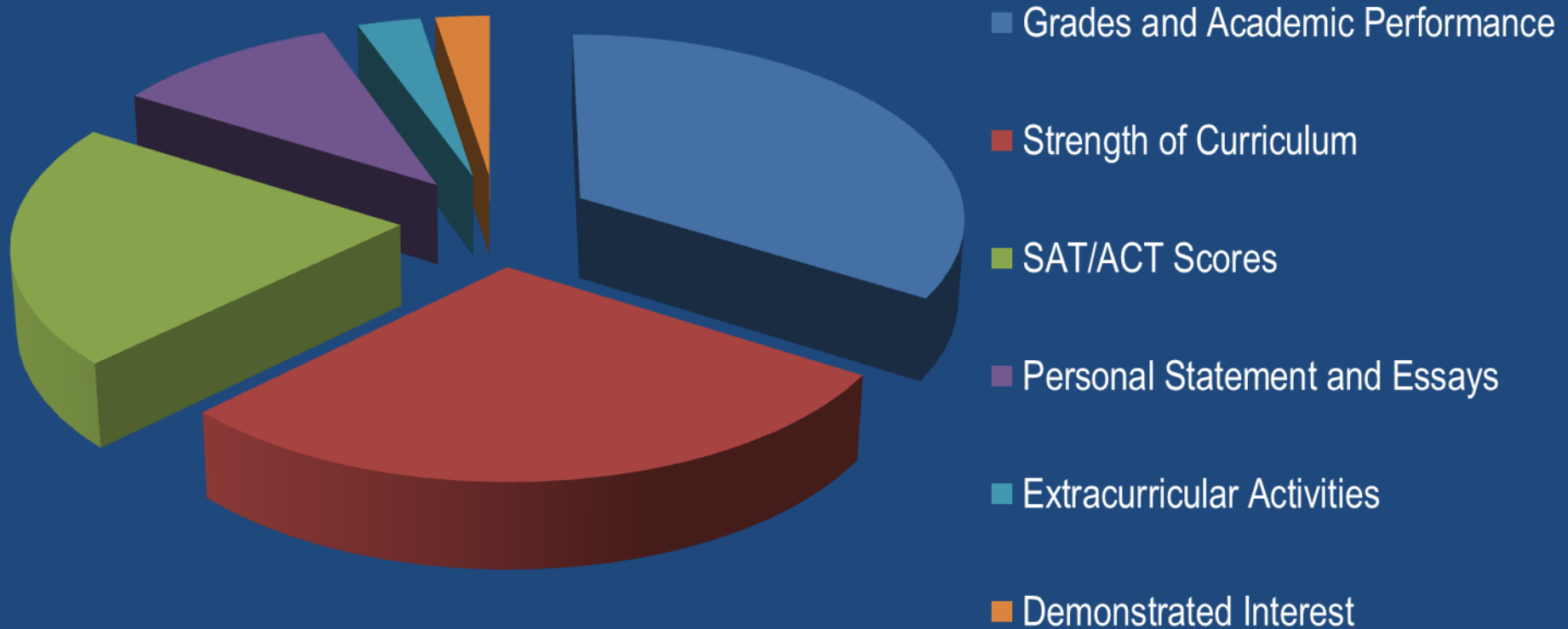
All colleges and universities are required to give accepted applicants until May 1st to submit their deposit.

Exception: A student admitted under the Early Decision option may be required to accept upon receipt of acceptance.

STEP 2:

Identify the Key Criteria for
College Admissions

Step 2: Identify the Key Criteria for College Admissions



STEP 3:

Review the Components of a
College Application Package

Step 3: Review the Components of a College Application Package

College application packages usually require the following components:

- Completed application form
- High school transcript
- SAT/ACT score reports
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers in major subject areas (math, science, foreign language, history/social studies, and English)
- A personal statement and supplemental essays
- Résumé
- Application fee

STEP 4:

Become Familiar with
College-Specific
Admission Requirements

Step 4: Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements

If you are applying to Community College of Philadelphia (CCP)...

- Complete the online application which can be found at www.ccp.edu.
- Register for and take the CCP placement exam.

Futures Tip for Success: It is recommended that all Philadelphia students apply to CCP and take the placement exam. This will provide an option for college and, if you choose to attend another school, will allow you to take classes at CCP during the summer.

Step 4: Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements

If you are applying to a Pennsylvania state university...

- Visit www.passhe.edu to link to applications for all 14 state universities: Bloomsburg, California University of PA, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana University of PA, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock and West Chester.
- Admission requirements will vary from school to school, and you will need to apply individually to each school.

Step 4: Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements

If you are applying to a Pennsylvania state-related university...

- Visit the following websites for applications for Pennsylvania's state-related universities:
 - Penn State University: www.admissions.psu.edu/apply
 - Temple University: <http://admissions.temple.edu/apply> or submit an application via The Common Application at www.commonapp.org
 - The University of Pittsburgh: <https://oafa.pitt.edu/apply>
 - Lincoln University: www.lincoln.edu/PDF/lincoln-ug-app.pdf
- Admission requirements and deadlines will vary from school to school.

Step 4: Become Familiar with College-Specific Admission Requirements

If you are applying to a private college or university...

- Go to the school's website and review the admission requirements and deadlines.
- In addition, more than 500 colleges and universities accept The Common Application. Visit The Common Application website, www.commonapp.org, to learn if the schools on your list accept The Common Application.
- The Common Application will provide you with application requirements, deadlines and supplementary materials for each school on your list.

STEP 5:
Complete the Process

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Ready, Set, Go!

- Finalize the list of colleges and universities to which you will apply.
- Visit each school – preferably while school is in session.
- Understand all application requirements for each school. Follow directions carefully.
- Take or retake the SAT/ACT.
- Ask two teachers in major subject areas for letters of recommendation.
- Prepare final drafts of your essays.
- Have someone you trust proofread all application materials.
- Check all application deadlines and submit your materials on time.
- Be sure to include any required fees with your applications.
- Confirm that all of your college application materials have been received by each school to which you applied.



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