

Q&A for Deferred Students (Early Decision)

1. What does it mean if an application has been “deferred”?
 - During Early Decision, the Admissions Committee may choose to defer a final decision on an application until Regular Decision deliberations. In these cases, the applicants are no longer bound by the Early Decision agreement. Historically, only 10-15% of deferred Early Decision applicants have been admitted during Regular Decision. While this may not sound encouraging, it is comparable to the acceptance rate for Regular Decision applicants in recent years.
2. Can a student learn why the application was deferred?
 - In most cases, there is nothing “wrong” with a candidate’s application. Approximately 80% of all applicants are “qualified for Penn,” with outstanding academic and non-academic credentials. With a limited number of spaces in the class, the Admissions Office is forced to make some very difficult decisions.
3. What happens now?
 - The Admissions Committee will review the application again, and this time within the context of the Regular Decision applicant pool. At that time they will have the student’s mid-year grade report and any other information and testing the student chooses to provide.
4. What can the student do to express a continued interest in Penn? Should they send additional letters of recommendations or other supplementary materials?
 - If still interested in Penn, it is recommended that the student write a letter to the appropriate Regional Director of Admissions in late January. A list of Regional Directors can be found at www.admissions.upenn.edu/contact. This letter should reiterate the student’s interest in Penn and provide any new information since the application was submitted (awards, recent accomplishments, etc.).
 - The student should make sure their high school submits to Penn an updated transcript reflecting mid-year grades.
 - If the student feels an additional letter of recommendation or other material will shed new light on their candidacy, they may send it along, but it is also recommended that they be judicious in the amount of additional information they submit.
5. If admitted during Regular Decision, will the student still be considered for financial aid?
 - Yes. Penn’s admission policy is need-blind and Penn is committed to meeting the demonstrated need of all admitted candidates. If the student is admitted during Regular Decision and has applied for financial aid, they will learn of financial aid eligibility along with the admissions decision.