



Early Decision and Regular Decision

What is Early Decision at Penn?

For all applicants, regardless of legacy status, who have decided that the University of Pennsylvania is their first college choice and who agree to matriculate if accepted, we encourage application under the Early Decision Plan. Penn's Early Decision Plan is a binding contract and students must attend if they are admitted.

Children and grandchildren of alumni also receive some preference under this plan in accordance with standard University policy. **Legacies are encouraged to apply Early Decision if Penn is their first choice institution.** An Early Decision application reflects the student's heightened personal commitment to Penn, independent of any family influence. Legacies receive maximum consideration when they apply Early Decision to Penn.

We encourage prospective legacies to consider many factors, not only admissions statistics, when pondering an Early Decision application. Applicants should take into account their particular interests, and they must establish how Penn is a good match for them. While legacies have been admitted at a slightly higher rate, it is important to note that in the last several years about two-thirds of legacy applicants were not admitted to Penn. (If you would like to review statistics we encourage you to visit the Admissions Incoming Class Profile: www.admissions.upenn.edu/profile.)

Students who desire Early Decision and who submit their applications by the November 1 deadline will receive a mid-December decision of Admit, Deny, or Defer. Those admitted must respond to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by January 1 since there is a commitment involved. Those deferred will be reevaluated during Regular Decision and will receive a final decision by early April. Denied students will not be reconsidered in the same academic year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A student may apply Early Decision to only one institution. Accordingly, if an applicant for Early Decision to the University of Pennsylvania also applies for Early Decision to another school, the Early Decision application to the University of Pennsylvania will be withdrawn. Further, if any Regular Decision applicant to the University of Pennsylvania is accepted Early Decision under a College Board approved Early Decision plan by any other school, the application to the University of Pennsylvania will be withdrawn.

What does it mean for a legacy to apply Regular Decision at Penn?

Legacy status is noted during Regular Decision, but it plays a much smaller role in the face of a very competitive, much larger applicant pool. During Early Decision, Penn has received roughly 4,000 applications. In Regular Decision, Penn receives about 19,000 applications.

More information:

- “What if They Say ‘No’?... and Other Admissions Decisions”: www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/decisions.html
- Frequently Asked Questions about Applying to Penn: www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/faqsap.html
- Penn Admissions Overview: www.alumni.upenn.edu/aca/overview.html

Penn Admissions Timeline

University of Pennsylvania's Office of Undergraduate Admissions: www.admissions.upenn.edu

<u>Undergraduate Admissions Timetable</u>	
DATE	ACTION
Nov 1	Applications due for Early Decision applicants.
Dec 13	Early Decision applicants are notified of admission decisions.
Jan 1	Applications due for Regular Decision applicants. Early Decision applicants' confirmation of acceptance due.
Feb 1- Mar 31	School of Nursing Regular Decision applicants are notified of admissions decisions.
Mar 31	Regular Decision applicants are notified of admissions decisions.
May 1	Regular Decision Candidates Reply Date.

<u>Transfer Admissions Timetable</u>	
DATE	ACTION
March 15	Applications due for Transfer applicants (for September admission).
May 15-30	Notification of decisions begins on a rolling basis in mid-May.

Penn Admissions Statistics

To view the profile of incoming students, please visit www.admissions.upenn.edu/profile.

<i>Penn's approximate admit rates over the last five years:</i>		
	LEGACY APPLICANTS	ALL APPLICANTS
Admitted Early Decision	38% - 42%	28% - 34%
Admitted Regular Decision	13% - 15%	13% - 15%
Full-cycle	32% - 34%	16% - 18%

While legacies are admitted at a slightly higher rate, particularly during the Early Decision round, the Alumni Office is very sensitive to the fact that nearly two-thirds of legacy applicants are not admitted to Penn each year.

Remember that the Alumni Council on Admissions does not have access to applicant files or decisions. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to submit your application materials or for questions about decisions.