College Admissions Application Rounds

	Early Decision	Early Action	Rolling	Regular
Deadline	Early Nov	Early Nov	Varies - typically late	Mid Dec-Jan
When do you hear back?	Mid-Dec	Jan or Feb	2-6 weeks	Mar or Apr
Is admission binding?	Yes	No	No	No
Can you apply to more than one school with this method?	No	Varies If EA is "restrictive" you can only apply to one	Yes	Yes
When do you need to accept admission?	Immediately	May 1	Varies - typically May 1	May 1
Drawbacks	Need to research and apply early, must commit to that school if accepted, no flexibility with financial aid	Need to research and apply early	Longer wait for decision, To gain advantage, need to research and apply early	Longer wait for decision
Benefits	Higher admission rate, find out early	Higher admission rate, find out early, can compare fin aid packages	Can save your safety schools to apply to rolling, ability to compare financial aid packages	More time to complete applications, ability to compare financial aid packages