

# *LEADs*

## EXPERIENCE

### *College Admission Guidebooks*

## *Discovery*

(noun): the process of finding a place, an object, or information; finding, learning, or uncovering something new



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EMORY





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# EMORY UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW



**Emory University** is a nationally ranked, mid-sized, liberal arts and research university in the progressive and global city of Atlanta. At Emory, student success—mentally, socially, professionally—is the priority for us; this is why faculty at our four undergraduate colleges serve as academic advisers, classmates engage as peer mentors, and staff create tailored 1:1 or group programming.

## *Resources for First-Gen and Low-Income Students*

Emory University has been recognized as an institution of higher education with a demonstrated commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-gen college students. We uplift, support, and celebrate our first-gen students at Emory.

## *Undocumented Student Support*

We welcome applications from undocumented students (with or without DACA) interested in applying as first-year students. Emory meets 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for undergraduate undocumented students who are admitted as first-degree-seeking students, and who graduated from a US high school. Once at Emory, undocumented students will receive the additional support of our [Mariposa Program](#).

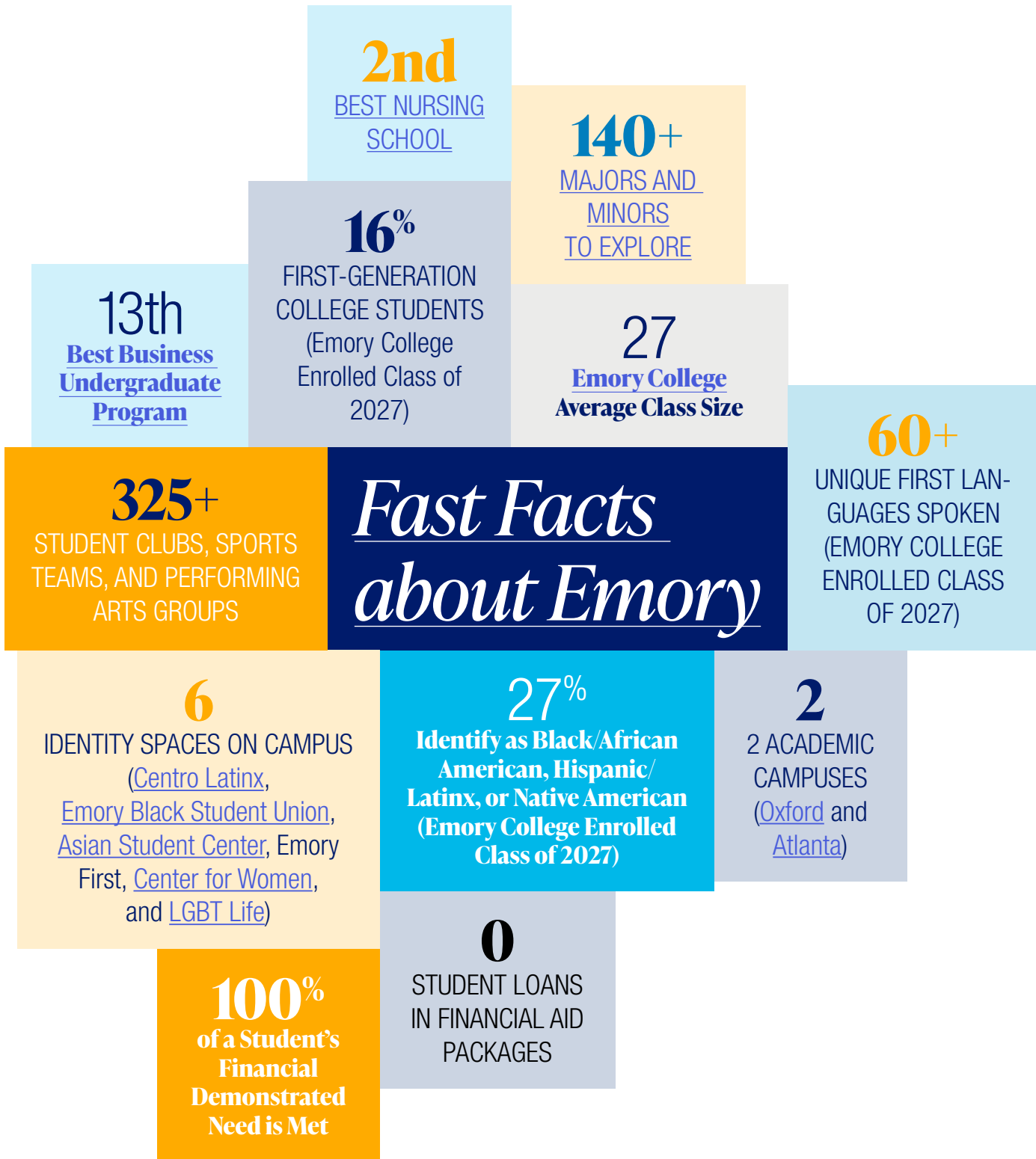
## *Atlanta*

Atlanta is the business, technology, entertainment, and health care center of the Southeast, giving you many ways to gain experience and have fun. Atlanta's vitality comes from its varied neighborhoods—each with its own vibe and sensibilities. Atlanta is also home to the world's busiest airport—good for getting to break destinations or to that out-of-town internship. In addition, Atlanta is also top-ranked for internships, places to start a career, being dog-friendly, and having one of the largest populations of college students.

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# EMORY UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW, CONTINUED





# DISCOVERY OVERVIEW

## Using This Guidebook

The purpose of our *College Admission Guidebooks* is to facilitate navigation of the college application process for all students. It is divided into four individual sections with the understanding that each of you arrive at the college admission process with different needs and concerns.

While created with the intention for students to begin with Leadership and end with Discovery, you can jump around and explore the sections that will best support your needs. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the topics in every section by reviewing the table of contents. You can then search for keywords, jump between topics, or read each section from cover to cover. The journey is yours! Please [click here](#) to access the Leadership, Enrichment, and Advocacy sections.



The Discovery section discusses topics that can help you select an institution that will complement your values and enable you to grow as a leader. You will learn to:



Understand admission plans, platforms, and decision outcomes



Demystify the types of colleges and universities



Research colleges and build a college list



Determine a good fit in a college



Structure your senior year to complete relevant tasks for the admission process



Review gap years or transfer admission as other options



### *From Lupe & Tim*



A crucial part in a student's college application search is uncovering the type of colleges and universities available. There's more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the US with countless more around the globe. With so many options, along with deadlines, application plans, and platforms to select from, it's important to identify the best path for you and your family.

Learning more about yourself and the college application process will enable you to make informed decisions. You'll be able to work through the pros and cons of specific choices and how they align with your values and goals. Applied knowledge is power and in this college admission journey when so much is out of your control, hold on to and leverage your power where you can. Take the time to discover more about yourself and keep an open mind as you explore the opportunities and resources available at colleges and universities.





# TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Most colleges fall into one if not more of the following categories. As you are researching a school, it is important to know what type of school it is, because that may determine the courses and degrees available to you. These institutions can be broadly categorized into several types based on their educational focus, degree levels, and institutional structure. Here are the main types of colleges and universities in the US:



**Public Universities:** are funded and operated by state governments. They typically offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs and often have larger student populations. Tuition at public universities is generally lower for in-state residents compared to out-of-state or international students.

**Private Universities:** are funded through private sources, such as endowments, donations, and tuition fees. They often have smaller student populations and may offer a more personalized educational experience.

**Liberal Arts Colleges:** emphasize a well-rounded education and focus on undergraduate studies. Liberal arts colleges tend to have smaller class sizes and encourage critical thinking and intellectual exploration.

**Community Colleges/Junior Colleges:** provide associate degrees and certificate programs. They offer more affordable options for students seeking to complete the first two years of their college education before transferring to a four-year institution or entering the workforce.

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**Single Sex Colleges:** have a long history of empowering and providing supportive environments for their students' academic and personal growth.

**Religious Colleges and Universities:** are affiliated with specific religious denominations or faiths. They often incorporate religious values and teachings into their academic programs and campus life.

**Research Universities:** prioritize academic research and advanced graduate programs. They offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees and are known for their cutting-edge research and faculty expertise.

**Specialized Colleges:** Specialized colleges focus on specific disciplines or career-oriented fields such as art schools, music conservatories, technical institutes, and business schools.

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## TYPES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, CONTINUED

In addition to the categories above, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) primarily serve underrepresented populations. These institutions play a crucial role in providing access to higher education and promoting diversity and inclusion in the education system. MSIs often cater to specific student populations.

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs):** HBCUs are institutions established before 1964 with the primary mission of serving the African American community. They have a rich history of providing higher education opportunities to African American students and have contributed significantly to African American leadership, culture, and civil rights movements.

**Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs):** HSIs are institutions with a significant enrollment of Hispanic students. To qualify as an HSI, an

institution must have an undergraduate full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students.

**Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs):** TCUs are higher education institutions that are controlled and operated by Native American tribes. They serve Native American communities and often integrate indigenous culture and knowledge into their educational programs.

**Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs):**

AANAPISIs are institutions with a substantial enrollment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander students. To qualify as an AANAPISI, an institution must have an undergraduate FTE enrollment of at least 10 percent Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander students.



**Emory University** is a private, Research 1 University with a focus in the liberal arts. It offers nine schools for its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.



# UNDERSTANDING “FIT”

## *What is “fit” as it relates to college admission?*

Making the decision on where to apply and attend college can feel daunting. As you build out your college list, reflecting on your own values will help you identify the schools that align with what is most important to you.

Values can be defined as the characteristics and behaviors that motivate us and guide our decisions.

Common values might include:

- **Family/Community**
- **Diversity/Belonging**
- **Financial Stability/Return on Investment**
- **Collaboration/Friendship/Compassion**
- **Freedom/Independence/Opportunities to Learn**
  - **Health/Well-Being**
- **Justice/Progress/Morality**

When you hear the phrase “find your fit,” this reflection is what that refers to. **Whether a college is a “good” or “right” fit will depend on whether (and to what extent) your own values are reflected in the institution.**

For example, if you are motivated by doing what is right and finding ways to help others, a good fit might include schools that:

- Have a mission to serve humanity where the community can engage in research that improves lives
- Have a Center for Ethics where faculty are leading conversations related to pressing moral issues
- Offer opportunities for community service where students can volunteer in the area and beyond

By keeping your personal values top of mind, you’ll be able to identify the schools that are the right fit for you.





## UNDERSTANDING “FIT,” CONTINUED

### *“Fit” as Mutually Beneficial*

Just like students assess fit in college admission, so do institutions. As admission committees review applications, they are seeking students that are aligned with specific institutional values—students can help the college become the best possible version of itself. Finding the right fit can be mutually beneficial for both the student and the institution.



### *“Fit” as Multilayered/ Multifaceted*

As you identify a few key values or factors to determine whether schools are a good fit, keep in mind that institutions may or may not match all your needs. It’s best to identify what factors are “need-to-have,” “would-like-to-have,” and “least-important.” Understanding what is negotiable and what is a deal-breaker will help in your decision-making process.

### *Types of Factors*

Types of factors to consider when assessing institutional fit include:

Academics

Geography/Location

Campus/Community

Social

Financial





## UNDERSTANDING "FIT," CONTINUED

### Academic Fit

Considerations to research within academics include:

#### Curriculum Requirements

- Will I have to apply to a specific college within the larger university? (i.e., at Vanderbilt, you also must submit an additional application for their Blair School of Music)
- Is there a core curriculum all students must take?
- Are there General Education Requirements (GER) to complete?
- How easy is it to switch majors? When do you have to declare?

#### Academic Resources

- Does the institution offer research opportunities? How soon? What kind?
- Does the institution offer academic tutors or supplemental instructors?
- How accessible are faculty and academic advisers?
- Does the institution offer study abroad options? To where? How often can you go abroad?

#### Class Information

- What is the average class size? Biggest class size?
- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- What are the class format like? Roundtable? Lecture-based?



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## Geography/Location Fit

Considerations to research within geography/location include:



### Climate/Seasons

- Do you want to experience all four seasons?
- Are you trying to experience a different climate than where you grew up? Or keep it the same?
- What do you want your weekends to look like? Surfing at the beach will require a different location than hiking mountains.

### Local Resource Availability

- Do you want to be in an urban, suburban, or rural location?
- Do you want to be in a big city or a small town?
- What resources are available in a city? What about in a small town? Consider:
  - Number of internships available and the types of companies in the area
  - How many colleges and universities are in the area
  - Public transportation in the area
  - Personal requirements (access to cultural foods, barber/hairstylists, and places of worship)
  - Entertainment / area attractions

### Proximity to Home/Airport

- Is the institution far away from home? How will you get there? If you don't have access to a car, is the institution accessible via public transportation?
- Is the institution close to an airport? Are there direct flights from your home city?
- Is the institution near an international airport?
- How many flights are there to/from your home city on a daily basis?



## UNDERSTANDING "FIT," CONTINUED

### Campus/Community Fit

Considerations to research within campus/community include:

#### Size

- Do you want to attend a small (<5000 students), medium (5,000–15,000), or large (>15,000) sized school?
- Are there shuttles to drive you on campus?
- How big of a student body do you want to engage with? Do you want to know everyone as you cross the quad or always meet new people?

#### Diverse and Inclusive Community

- How many students identify as first-generation college or students of color?
- How is the institution's socio-economic diversity? How many students are given financial aid or scholarships?
- How many international students are there? Where do they come from?
- How many students attend from in-state?
- What is the female to male ratio?
- What percentage of faculty and staff are of color?

#### Safety

- What measures are in place to keep the community safe?
- What resources does the institution have in place for when you're studying late?
- How many professional residential staff live in or supervise residential halls?



## Social Fit

Considerations to research within social life include:



### Organizations

- How many student clubs and organizations are offered? How do they get funded?
- What types of student clubs and organizations exist? Can you create a club easily?
- Are Greek Life and Athletics a big part of the school culture?

### Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

- What resources exist to help with the social transition to college?
- What resources exist to address your well-being during all four years of college?
- How accessible is mental health counseling? Is it free?
- Are group fitness classes available? Are they free?
- What campus life offices are dedicated to student success?

### Traditions on Campus

- What builds affinity and belonging at school?
- What are some of the events that unite the student campus?
- What are some of the events that give students the ability to learn from one another?



### Financial Fit

This refers to the alignment between a student’s financial resources and the cost of attending a particular college or university. It is an essential aspect of the college decision-making process, as it directly impacts a student’s ability to afford and attend a specific institution. Critical to understanding financial fit is knowing whether loans are a part of aid packages and to what extent an institution meets the student and family’s demonstrated need.

When evaluating financial fit, students and their families should consider the following factors:

**Tuition and Fees:** Calculate the total cost of tuition and mandatory fees for attending the college for one academic year. This amount can vary significantly between different colleges.

**Meals and Housing:** Consider the cost of on-campus housing and meal plans, as these expenses are often significant components of the overall college cost.

**Financial Aid Packages:** Assess the financial aid packages offered by each college. This includes grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, and loans. Pay attention to the



breakdown of grants and scholarships (gift aid) versus loans (which must be repaid).

**Family Contribution:** Assess the Student Aid Index (SAI), which is a replacement for Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and is a calculation of the amount of need-based financial aid a student is eligible to receive determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or other financial aid forms. This is the amount the family is expected to contribute towards college costs.

**Other Expenses:** Account for additional expenses such as textbooks, transportation, personal expenses, and health insurance.

It’s important to strike a balance

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## UNDERSTANDING "FIT," CONTINUED

between finding a college that offers a strong academic and social fit while being financially manageable for the student and their family. This ensures that the college experience is not only enriching academically but also financially sustainable in the long run. As you examine financial fit, please be mindful that in most instances there will be some sort of financial investment by the student and or family.

To learn more about Financial Aid please see this area in our [Enrichment](#) brochure. In addition, information on Financial Literacy can be found in this area of our [Advocacy](#) brochure.





## *Emory-Specific Statistics*

### Fast Facts Related to Various Types of Fit

As you consider whether Emory University may be a good fit for your college home, consider the following information:

#### **Academic**

- [General Education Requirements](#)
- [Research opportunities](#)
- [Study abroad opportunities](#)

#### **Geographic**

- Emory University has two undergraduate academic campuses: Atlanta and Oxford Campus.
- [Emory College](#), located on the Atlanta campus, is about 15 minutes from downtown Atlanta.
- [Oxford College](#), located about 38 minutes east of Atlanta, is about 45 minutes from downtown Atlanta.

#### **Campus/Community**

- [Theme Housing](#)
- [Programs hosted by the Office for Racial and Cultural Engagement](#)

#### **Social Life**

- The biggest organization on campus is [Volunteer Emory](#)
- The biggest off-campus event is [Diwali](#)
- [Mental well-being resources](#)
- [Student Flourishing initiative](#)
- [Traditions on campus](#)

#### **Financial Fit**

- Emory meets 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for domestic, undocumented, and DACA students
- Our financial aid packages include no student loans

To further explore if Emory is right for you, visit [here](#).





# RESEARCHING COLLEGES

## BUILDING YOUR LIST

Researching colleges empowers you to make well-informed decisions about your higher education journey, increasing the likelihood of finding a college that best suits your academic, personal, and career aspirations. It also helps you approach the application process strategically, presenting yourself as a strong candidate for admission. While there are rankings and other tools to help students understand what colleges and universities can offer candidates, only you know what you are looking for and, in most instances, outside sources won't help you find the colleges that may suit you best.

As you begin to research colleges, consider the following:

- 1. Make a List of Criteria:** Create a list of things that are essential to you in a college. This will serve as a guide during your research.
- 2. Reach Out to High School Counselors:** They can provide guidance and support throughout the research process.
- 3. Utilize Online Resources:** Explore colleges that match your criteria on websites like [College Board's BigFuture](#), [Naviance](#), [Niche](#), and the [College Scorecard](#). These sites provide valuable information on academics, campus life, financial aid, and more.
- 4. College Websites:** Visit the official websites of colleges you are interested in. Explore admission requirements, available programs, campus facilities, financial aid options, and any special programs or resources for students.
- 5. Review social media:** Check out a school's social media, blog, or school newspaper to better understand each school's values and culture.
- 6. Attend Virtual or In-Person Sessions:** Many colleges offer virtual and/or in-person campus tours. Institutions may also send representatives to your high school for visits and college fairs. Check with your high school counselor for more information.



## RESEARCHING COLLEGES, CONTINUED

Remember that researching colleges is a process that requires time and effort. We encourage students to create an Excel or Google spreadsheet to compare different schools (including deadlines), and to be open to exploring various options. Trust your instincts and prioritize what matters most to you in your college experience.

### *Select a Range of Schools To Apply To*

In college admission, “safety,” “target,” and “reach” are terms used to categorize colleges based on the likelihood of a student’s admission. Here’s what each category means:

**Safety Schools:** Colleges where the student is highly likely to be accepted based on their academic record and test scores.

**Target Schools:** Colleges where a student’s academic qualifications align closely with the average admitted student. The student’s GPA, test scores, and other qualifications fall within the range of accepted students at these colleges. While admission to target schools is reasonably probable, it’s not guaranteed, making them a competitive yet realistic option for the student.

**Reach Schools:** Colleges where a student’s academic credentials fall below the average admitted student’s qualifications. These are more selective institutions with higher admission standards. Reach schools are considered more challenging to get into but are still worth considering if the student is particularly interested in them.

It’s essential for you to create a well-balanced college list that includes a mix of safety, target, and reach schools. This approach provides a range of options and ensures that you have choices during the college application process. You should carefully research colleges, taking into account factors like academic programs, campus culture, location, financial aid, and extracurricular opportunities, to determine which schools are the best fit for your personal and academic goals.

### *Emory-Specific Research Links*

- [Inside Emory Admission Blog](#)
- [Emory Admission Website](#)
- [Emory Admission Instagram](#)
- [Emory Admission YouTube](#)

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# APPLICATION PLANS



## *Purpose of Having Various Types of Plans*

Institutions offer a variety of application plans to complete and enroll in their incoming first-year class. This enables you to apply under the plan that best works for your needs. A chart with the common types of application plans and their characteristics is below.

Plan	Unique Traits	Limitations	Deadline	Decision Release	Good to Know
<b>Early Decision I (ED1)</b>	Find out application decision earlier with a binding commitment to enroll that is signed by student, family, and counselor.	Cannot have simultaneous active early applications.	Fall	Fall	Ideal for students who researched colleges extensively and have a "first choice" school. Great option for students who typically do not need to consider other information or compare decisions/awards.
<b>Early Decision II (ED2)</b>			Winter	Winter/ Early Spring	
<b>Early Admission (EA)</b>	Find out application decision earlier without a binding commitment to enroll.	None	Fall	Fall	Ideal for students who finish their application requirements early and don't need the extra time to polish or proofread their application. Great option for students who want an earlier decision notification with the ability to still consider other information (i.e. financial aid) before making a final decision.
<b>Restrictive Early Admission (REA)</b>		Cannot have simultaneous active early applications.	Fall	Fall	
<b>Regular Decision (RD)</b>	"Standard" application	None	Winter	Spring	Students can compare decisions and financial aid packages before depositing
<b>Rolling Decision</b>	"Standard" application without a set deadline.	School will continue to read applications until class is filled.	Flexible	Flexible	For full consideration, students should complete this application as soon as possible.



## APPLICATION PLANS, CONTINUED

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **How many schools can I apply Early Decision 1 (ED) to?**

One. You can only apply ED to one school. If you do not get admitted, you could consider applying Early Decision 2 to another school.

#### **Do I have to wait for my ED admission decision to apply to schools Regular Decision (RD)?**

No. You can apply to other schools via Regular Decision at any time.

#### **Can I apply Early Decision and Restrictive Early Action?**

Typically, the answer is no since Restrictive Early Action has stipulations around what you can and cannot do. It's best to review the specific institution's website to understand its application plan requirements.

#### **What does it mean to apply via a binding plan?**

It means you have made a conscious choice to apply to your top choice school with the intent to enroll if you're admitted. You, your parents/guardian, and your high school counselor all sign a contract verifying your agreement to enroll.

#### **What if I can't afford the Cost of Attendance and I am admitted via ED?**

Before you apply Early Decision, it's important to review the institution's financial aid policy, connect with their financial aid office, and complete the [Net Price Calculator](#) and other financial aid package estimators such as [MyInTuition](#). By doing research at the beginning, you eliminate any potential surprises or conflicts post-decision release. If the financial aid package you receive is significantly different than the one you were expecting given your research, you should contact your financial aid representative for help.

#### **Are ED 1 and ED 2 the same?**

Both Early Decision 1 and Early Decision 2 are binding and signify the same level of intent in committing to the institution if admitted. The only difference is the deadline. ED 2 has a later deadline to accommodate students who need just a little longer to commit to a top-choice school.

#### **If I know I need financial aid/scholarships to attend college, should I apply ED?**

Most schools that offer Early Decision as an option usually have very generous financial aid packages. If there is

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## APPLICATION PLANS, CONTINUED

a school that is heads and shoulders above all other schools, yes, you should consider applying early, but you need to be sure to check the net price calculator for that school and have a sense of how much aid you are going to receive prior to submitting your application.

### Is it easier to get in ED vs RD?

While we wouldn't say it is "easier," there are statistical advantages to applying early. The criteria for being admitted to most schools is the same for all rounds, but what is different is the amount of people applying in those rounds and the

percentage of the class that is held for each round. Selective schools like Emory will admit 50 percent or more of their class through early rounds, but only a fraction of the total applicants apply through those early rounds, with most applying through regular decision. Thus, the admit rate being higher for early rounds is not a function of it being easier, rather more students applying in RD for a smaller portion of the class in many instances.

[Emory's Inside Admission blog](#) also walks through some of the pros and cons of applying ED.

### Emory-Specific Plans and Deadlines:

Application Plan	Application Deadline	Financial Aid Deadline	Decision Notification
Early Decision I	Nov. 1	CSS Profile and IDOC Dec. 6 / FAFSA Jan. 31	By Dec. 15
Scholar Programs	Nov. 15	Based on selected decision plan	By March 1
Early Decision II	Jan. 1	CSS Profile and IDOC Jan. 10 / FAFSA Jan. 31	By Feb. 15
Regular Decision	Jan. 1	CSS Profile and IDOC Jan. 31 / FAFSA Jan. 31	By April 1

Please note: Because Emory University is one institution, students can apply Early Decision to both Emory College and Oxford College if they'd like. Alternatively, students can apply Early Decision to just one campus or Regular Decision to both.

At Emory, each of these rounds has different admit rates, but the criteria for admission are consistent with all of them. Please consult your high school counselor for guidance on which one may be best for you based on your academic profile.



# APPLICATION PLATFORMS

## *What Is an Application Platform?*

Just like there are various application plans for you to choose from when submitting your application, there are different types of application platforms. An application platform is the site students use to complete and submit their first-year application. Review each institution's website to check the application platforms they accept. A chart with the common types of application platforms and their characteristics is below.

## *Application Platforms*



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeps a requirements tracker for each application, including each school's writing requirements.</li> <li>• Comes as a mobile application.</li> <li>• Easy to preview application.</li> <li>• Covers 1,000+ colleges and universities in both the US and abroad</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geared towards academically outstanding high school students whose families earn less than \$65,000/year for a family of four</li> <li>• Provides an opportunity for students to apply through the National College Match process</li> <li>• Includes more opportunities to share your story through the various essay prompts</li> <li>• Includes 50 Questbridge Partner Schools (Colleges)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colleges must prove they provide substantial support to low-income and underrepresented students to use this platform.</li> <li>• Uses a locker tool, which allows students to store documents starting in 9th grade. Features a collaboration space.</li> <li>• No limit on the number of colleges you can apply to</li> <li>• Covers 150+ colleges and universities</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|





## Other Application Platforms

**GET EDUcated!**



**EDU, Inc.**

COMMON BLACK COLLEGE APPLICATION

- To alleviate financial stress and get more students of color to college, Robert Mason created the Common Black College Application.
- Pay a one-time \$20 application fee to send your application to all member institutions
- Includes 66 member institutions (Colleges)

### State-Specific Applications

Options when applying to a network of state schools



- Includes 60+ Texas Schools\*



- Includes 9 UC Schools

State-specific applications are not limited to the examples above.



### *Platform Considerations*

Before applying to any college, carefully check their admission website to determine which application platform they accept and whether there are any specific requirements or supplementary materials needed.

Below are some questions you should consider when thinking about which platform will be best for you.

**How many schools am I applying to?** The Common Application (CA) currently has more than 1,000 colleges and universities that you can apply to, but not all schools are on the CA, so that may not be the only platform you will be able to use.

**Does my state have its own application platform?** There are some larger states like California and Texas that have their own application platforms that you will be required to complete.

### *Emory-Specific: Platforms We Accept*

You can apply to Emory online through the [Common Application](#) or [QuestBridge Application](#). In the Common Application, you can choose to apply to Emory College, Oxford College, or both and select your preferred admission plan.

### **Are there scholarships that I am interested in that will require me to use specific or separate applications?**

If you are considering applying to colleges that use different application platforms, make a list of all the colleges you are interested in and note which application platform each college accepts. This will help you stay organized and ensure you complete the right application for each institution.

Please note that applying for financial aid is a completely different process. To view information on Financial Aid please visit [here](#).

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# ADMISSION DECISIONS

## *Decision Outcomes from Regular Decision*

College admission decisions are the outcomes of the evaluation process that colleges and universities use to determine which applicants will be accepted for enrollment. After evaluating each applicant, colleges typically send out one of the following decisions:

**Admitted:** Applicants who are offered admission and invited to attend the college.

**Deferred:** Some applicants may be deferred, meaning that their application is postponed for further review in the regular decision round. The college wants to consider the applicant's profile within the larger applicant pool.

**Waitlisted:** Waitlisted applicants are not immediately accepted or rejected. They are placed on a waitlist, and if spots become available later, they may receive an offer of admission.

**Rejected/Denied:** Applicants who are not selected for admission are denied acceptance.

## *Decision Outcomes for Early Decision*

When applying Early Decision (ED), it is important to first know that it is a binding agreement, meaning if admitted, you will be required to attend this school. Most schools that have ED plans will either offer admission or deny outcomes during these decision plans. There are some schools that offer deferral outcomes for ED 1 and waitlist outcomes for ED 2, but in most instances, students will receive an admission or deny outcome for Early Decision plans.

## *Decision Outcomes for QuestBridge Match*

If students apply through the QuestBridge National College Match Program, they will typically receive their match notification by December 1. If students are not matched, they can apply to schools via the school-specific admission plans available to them. Some QB partner schools have Early Decision 2 as an admission plan, but most students roll their applications to Regular Decision (RD).

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## ADMISSION DECISIONS, CONTINUED

Facts about QuestBridge decisions:

1. QuestBridge is a separate application process that you must begin during your junior year of high school. For more information about the program please visit their [website](#).
2. You cannot apply to any school Early Decision 1 if you are participating in the National College Match.
3. QuestBridge does not make admission decisions; the individual schools make those decisions.
4. If you are not matched with a school, there is still an opportunity to be admitted to that school through other admission rounds (such as ED 2 or RD).
5. Each QuestBridge partner school has a different process on how to be considered for later rounds and some require the completion of the Common Application or school supplements. Please be sure to visit QB partner school for specific instructions on how to have your application considered if you don't match.







# OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

## *Personal Values/ Path to Success:*

Life's not linear, and rarely is college. As you go through this process, you may find you need to pivot at some point for any number of reasons. There are students who decide as they finish high school that they are not ready for college and choose to take a gap year, and there are others who go on to college but find it is not the best fit and decide to transfer. There is nothing wrong with either option; while it is more common to go straight from high school to college and finish in four to five years, we know that is not the case for everyone. Below are explanations for how to think about both transferring and taking a gap year.



## *Gap Year*

Taking a gap year—a break between high school and college or between academic years—can be a valuable and transformative experience for students. There are any number of reasons that students may take a gap year, like personal or financial reasons, even to refresh or recharge. No matter the reason, it's important for students considering a gap year to have a well-thought-out plan and discuss their decision with their parents or guardians, teachers, and college counselors. Many colleges and universities are supportive of students taking gap years and may even [defer](#) their admission for a year. A structured gap year with clear goals and intentions can provide an enriching and transformative experience for students as they prepare for their college years and beyond.



## OTHER OPTIONS, CONTINUED

### *Transfer Admission*

While it may not be planned, transferring colleges can be a positive step if it aligns with your academic and personal goals. It's crucial to conduct thorough research and seek advice from college counselors, teachers, and mentors to make an informed decision. Additionally, discuss your intentions with your current college to understand their transfer policies and procedures. Remember that the transfer process may take time and effort, so be prepared for a smooth transition.

It's essential for both first-year and transfer applicants to thoroughly research colleges, understand their admission requirements, and submit a comprehensive application that highlights their academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, and personal qualities. Whether applying as a first-year or transfer student, selecting colleges that match your academic and personal goals is key to a successful college application process.

### *Emory-Specific Links for Gap Year/Deferral/Transfer Admission*

- [FAQ](#)
- [Transfer policies](#)





# ADMISSION PROCESS

## TIMELINE FOR SENIOR YEAR

Being organized during the college admission process helps you stay on top of deadlines, present your best self to colleges, and make informed decisions about your future education. It can greatly improve your chances of getting into the college of your choice and set a positive tone for your academic journey. Here is a suggested checklist for your senior year to make sure you stay organized and set yourself up for success in the college admission process.

### Senior Year

#### *Fall*

- Finalize your college list.
- Keep track of all deadlines, applications completed, and what you have submitted to colleges.
- Attend college informational sessions in person or online.
- Discuss Early Decision and Early Action strategies.
- Revise personal statement(s) and supplemental essays.
- Register for interviews, if applicable.

- Proofread all Early Action and Early Decision applications and essays.
- Take standardized tests for the last time, if applicable.
- Actively look for scholarships.
- Follow up with all letter of recommendation writers.

### Senior Year

#### *Winter (January to March)*

- If your Early Decision application is deferred by a college that you want to attend, correspond with the college and indicate that it is still a top choice. Offer any updates on activities, awards, and accomplishments.
- Learn more about financing a college education over four years by attending workshops.
- Beware of senioritis! This is when seniors get too comfortable and do not finish their senior year strong. This can lead to admission offers being rescinded or being put on academic probation as a freshman in college.
- Wait for application decisions.



## ADMISSION PROCESS: TIMELINE, CONTINUED

### Senior Year

#### *Spring (March and April)*

- Receive decisions from schools and evaluate admission and financial aid options.
- Visit colleges that you've been accepted to and are considering.
- If waitlisted, consider remaining on the list and communicating with the school that you will attend, if this is in fact true.
- Attend accepted students' receptions when possible.
- Make a final decision and submit a deposit by May 1.

### Senior Year

#### *Late Spring (May)*

- Celebrate College Signing Day! Wear a shirt with your new school's name on it.
- Notify your school counselor and any scholarships of your final decision.
- Have your final transcript sent.
- Sign up for campus housing.
- Join first-year student social media groups to find a roommate.

### Senior Year

#### *Summer*

- **Create a Checklist:** Make a list of all the things you need to do before leaving for college. This will help you stay organized and ensure you don't forget anything important.
- **Housing and Paperwork:** If you'll be living on campus, confirm your housing arrangements and complete any required paperwork. If you're living off campus, ensure you have your lease agreement in order.
- **Pack Wisely:** Pack clothing, personal items, and essentials for college life. Remember that you don't need to bring everything with you; you can purchase some items once you arrive. Pack only what you'll need for the first few months.
- **Health Care and Medications:** Schedule a health check-up with your doctor and dentist before leaving. Make sure you have any necessary vaccinations, prescriptions, and health insurance in place.
- **Communicate with Roommates:** If you know your roommates, get in touch with them to discuss who is bringing what (to avoid duplicates) and get to know each other a bit before moving in.

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## ADMISSION PROCESS: TIMELINE, CONTINUED

- **Tech and Gadgets:** Ensure your laptop, phone, chargers, and other essential tech devices are in working order. Bring any additional gadgets that you might find useful for your studies.
- **Attend Orientation:** Many colleges offer orientation programs for incoming students. Attend these if possible, as they're a great way to get acclimated to the campus and meet new people.

For more information about leaving home and transitioning to college, please read our Advocacy brochure [here](#).





# GLOSSARY

## *Key Terms/Vocabulary/Terminology*

**academic probation.** A process during which low-performing students have to prove themselves academically in order to continue studying at a particular school. Part of the probationary process involves a reduced course load to allow a student to spend more time on each course.

**admission requirements.** A set of rules established by every college or university for determining whether students qualify for admission.

**associate's degree.** An associate's degree is earned after completing a program of study at a two-year college, typically a community or junior college. The degree is usually an associate of arts or an associate of science.

**bachelor's degree.** A degree awarded for completing a college academic program of at least four years. These degrees are usually a bachelor of arts (BA) or a bachelor of science (BS).

**College Board.** A nonprofit organization that provides tests and

other educational services for students, high schools, and colleges. The SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test), College Scholarship Search Profile, and AP tests are products of the College Board.

**Common Application.** The Common Application is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to more than 1000 member colleges and universities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and in Canada, China, Japan, and many European countries.

**cost of attendance.** The total cost of college for one year as a full-time student. This covers the cost of tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and personal expenses.

**defer.** For students who apply Early Decision or Early Action, a school may decide not to admit or deny them at first but may defer making a decision and reevaluate the applicant among the general pool of applicants.

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**degree.** A certificate indicating satisfactory completion of a program of study. A four-year degree is typically a BA (bachelor of arts) or a BS (bachelor of science). A graduate degree beyond a bachelor's may be an MA (master of arts) or an MS (master of science). Other degrees include a law degree (JD, or doctor of jurisprudence), a medical degree (MD, or doctor of medicine), a PhD (doctor of philosophy), and many others.

**Early Action.** A nonbinding admission plan whereby students apply in October or November and receive a decision within 30 to 90 days.

**Early Decision.** A binding admission plan in which the student, parents, and counselor all agree, in writing, that if the student is admitted, they will attend. Deadlines are typically in November for Early Decision I and January for Early Decision II. With both plans, students receive a decision within approximately six weeks.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).** A form that allows applicants to apply for financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study.

**Federal Direct Loan.** Formerly known as a Stafford Loan, this is a loan from the US government for student financial aid.

**financial aid.** Scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs that allow students to attend college when their families demonstrate a need for additional money to pay for college. Financial aid packages are determined by a family's financial need as measured by their assets, liabilities, and debt-to-income ratio. Some financial aid is also determined by the availability of government funds.

**gap year.** A period of time when some students choose to take a break from their studies, usually after completing high school.

**liberal arts college.** A college where the emphasis of the curricula is on philosophy, literature, history, languages, and basic science.

**major.** A student's primary field of study.

**master's degree.** The degree given for completing a one- to two-year course of study beyond a bachelor's degree. Some examples: master of arts (MA), master of



science (MS), master of business administration (MBA), and master of fine arts (MFA).

**minor.** A subject-area emphasis earned by completing a certain number of credits in an area outside a student's major.

**part-time student.** A college student who takes fewer than a full-time schedule of classes (usually twelve to sixteen units, or credit hours, per term); part-time status may make students ineligible for financial aid.

**Pell Grant.** Financial aid from the federal government available to students with significant financial need at many types of colleges and vocational schools.

**private college.** A college that is not supported by state taxes.

**QuestBridge.** A program that connects exceptional first-generation college, low-income students to 51 leading colleges and opportunities.

**Research 1 institution.** At the forefront of research and innovation, these institutions receive federal and/or private funding specifically for their academic research.

**REA (Restrictive Early Action) (Single-Choice Early Action).**

Offered by several elite colleges such as Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, REA allows students to receive an admission decision early with a nonbinding application. When students apply REA, they cannot also apply Early Decision at other schools.

**regular decision.** The standard admission plan with application deadlines usually between January 1 and March 30.

**rolling admission.** The ongoing review of applications without a formal deadline. The earlier a student applies, the earlier they will be notified of a decision. Colleges accept as many students as they need to fill an incoming class.

**scholarship.** A gift of money (which does not need to be repaid) given in recognition of student financial need or achievement, skills, or talent.

**Student Aid Index (SAI).** A formula used to calculate the amount of financial need of a family and student (this was formerly called "Expected Family Contribution").





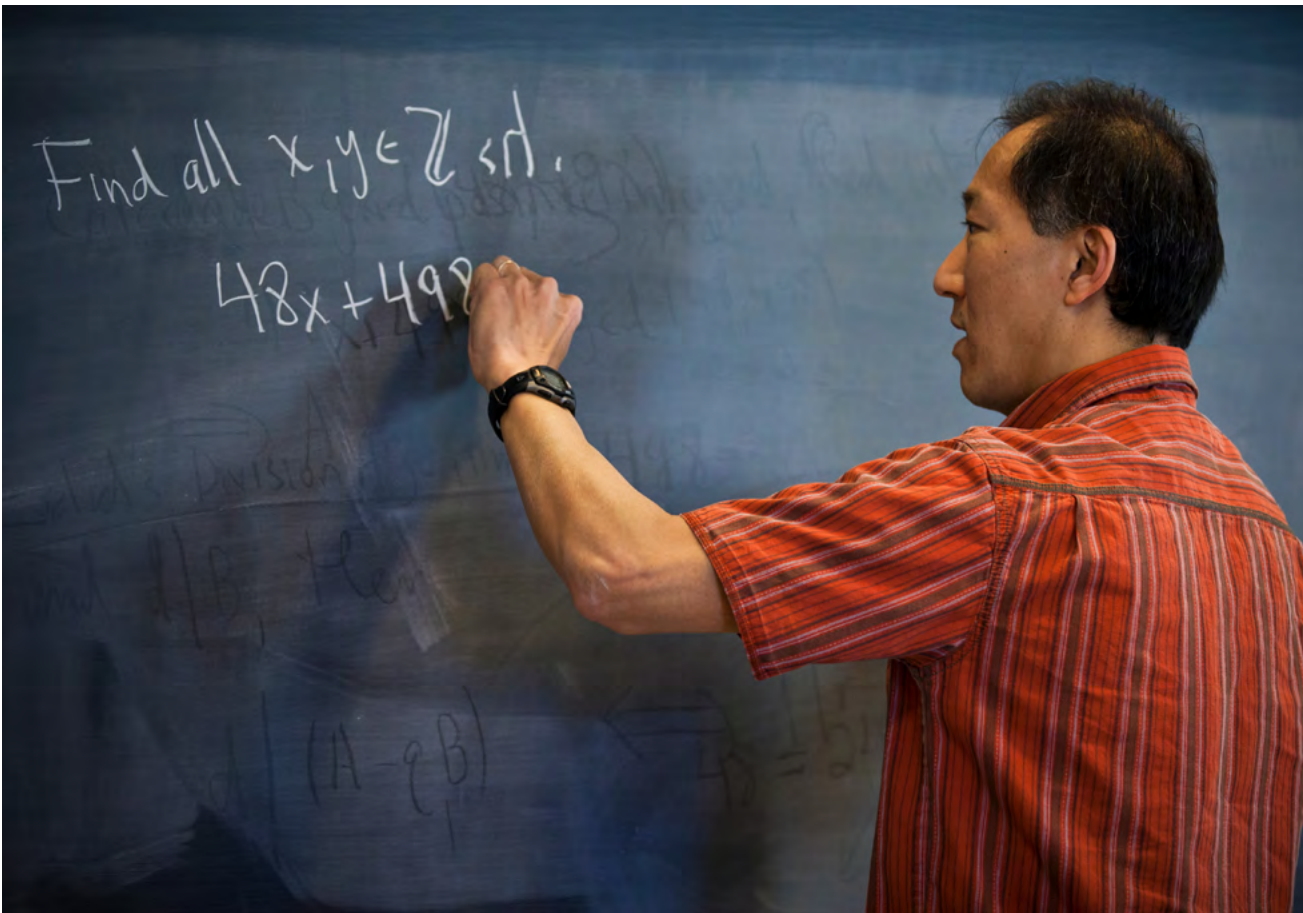
**Student Aid Report.** Provides basic information about your financial aid eligibility.

**transcript.** An official copy of a student's high school or college courses taken and the grades they earned.

**transfer courses.** College courses that may be transferred to another college.

**tuition.** The fee for instruction at a college or vocational school.

**waitlist.** A maybe response from a college to your application, where you are added to a list of students who might ultimately be accepted. Depending on how many admitted students accept the offer to attend, colleges can admit students from the waiting list.





# CONNECT WITH US

Thank you for reading our *College Admission Guidebooks*. We hope the information provided was helpful as you continue your college application process. To read the other sections [please click here](#).

## *Ways to keep in touch with LEADS*

Visit our [website](#) or [email us](#) for more information.

## *Ways to keep in touch with Emory University*

Emory offers both in-person and virtual visits. [Learn more about how to engage with our office](#).

