

Southwestern University Early Decision Commitment

This page must accompany your application if you are applying Early Decision.

Early Decision Overview

Early Decision plans allow you to apply early and receive an admission decision well in advance of the usual notification date. But there is a catch. Early Decision plans are “binding,” meaning if you apply as an early decision candidate, you agree to attend the college if it offers you admission and provides an adequate financial aid package. Although you can apply only to one college for Early Decision, you may apply to other colleges under regular admission. If your first-choice college extends an offer of admission, you must withdraw all other applications. Usually, colleges insist on a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1. You should only apply under an Early Decision plan if you are very, very sure of the college you want to attend. Do not apply under Early Decision if you plan to weigh offers and financial aid packages from several colleges later in the spring or if it is to your advantage to have more of your senior year work to show college admission counselors.

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

As soon as we receive the Early Decision application, we will send you an Early Decision Financial Aid Form (EDFAF) if you indicate you are applying for need-based aid. Complete the form and return it to Southwestern by December 1. We will then analyze the information and give you a tentative assessment of your eligibility for financial assistance. If you meet the appropriate Early Decision deadlines, you will have this financial assessment well before you must make your decision and submit your January 10 enrollment deposit. Candidates must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

Since we have a number of academic scholarships, we will consider you for all general academic awards before you must respond to our offer of admission. The only scholarships involving later notification are the Brown Scholar and Dixon Scholar awards.

Early Decision Admission

Applicants offered admission under the Early Decision program are asked to make a nonrefundable \$500 deposit (\$250 for enrollment and \$250 for housing), made payable to Southwestern University, by the appropriate date. The student is assured a place in the incoming first-year class, conditional only upon maintaining, for the balance of the senior year of high school, the level of academic achievement and conduct upon which the offer of admission was based. It is a violation of the spirit of this agreement for an applicant to be an Early Decision candidate at two or more institutions at the same time. Students who choose to apply Early Decision to more than one school will have their applications immediately withdrawn.

Early Decision Deferment or Denial

Applications not offered admission under the Early Decision program are either deferred or denied. Students deferred under the plan will be reconsidered during the period when Regular Decision candidates are being considered, with notification around April 1. Students who are denied admission may focus their time and effort on other college options. We only defer cases when we believe new information could result in a favorable admission decision.

Commitment

I have determined that Southwestern University is my clear first choice; therefore, I am requesting an Early Decision on my application for admission.

I understand that I may apply to other colleges but must withdraw those applications if offered admission. I agree, if admitted, that I will commit to matriculate and pay the required, nonrefundable enrollment and housing deposit by January 10, provided that adequate financial aid, if needed, is awarded. I further understand that, in the event I apply for financial aid based on need and I (and my family) do not believe Southwestern is able to provide sufficient funding, I may withdraw before the respective deposit deadline.

I have read the guidelines for Southwestern University’s Early Decision program. My parent(s)/guardian(s), high school counselor and I are fully aware of the provisions of this agreement and we will abide by all conditions contained within.

.....
applicant’s name (please print)

.....
permanent home address: street and number

.....
city state/province zip/postal code country

.....
signature date

Parent’s or Guardian’s Signature

I am fully aware of the provisions of the Early Decision Commitment for which the student named above is applying.

.....
parent/guardian’s name (please print)

.....
signature date

High School Counselor’s Signature

I am fully aware of the provisions of the Early Decision Commitment for which the student named above is applying.

.....
counselor’s name (please print)

.....
signature date