

Maria Finan: Welcome back to College Bound, Notre Dame's admissions podcast. Today, we're going to be talking about when to apply. So, we often get questions from students about REA versus RD, and we really want to define, kind of, some of these deadline terms, knowing that they tend to vary from school to school. My name's Maria Finan, I'm one of the Senior Assistant Directors in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. I'm also what we call a double-domer, so I received my bachelor's and my master's degrees in English from Notre Dame, and I'll pass it off to my co-host to introduce herself.

Montanna Kirven: I am Montana Kirven. I'm an Assistant Director of Admissions here in Notre Dame, also a proud Notre Dame grad, I graduated with a degree in English as well.

Maria Finan: So, Montana, today's question that we often get asked by students, especially our seniors as they're applying, is, when should I apply to Notre Dame? So, that's a question asking about, essentially, the difference between our restrictive early action versus our regular decision. Can you give a little bit of advice about when to apply, and also just explain what do we mean by restrictive early action?

Montanna Kirven: Absolutely. Well, the answer is you should apply whenever your application is the strongest. So, you know, if you feel ready to apply in REA, that deadline is November 1st. If you feel ready on Halloween night to submit your application, feel free to go for it. That's a great time to apply. And if you feel your application would be a little stronger later, then regular decision is also a great time to apply. In the admissions office, we read both application cycles exactly the same. So it's really up to you when you feel your application is the strongest. Now, getting into the difference between REA versus RED. So, REA, Restrictive Early Action, is our early pool. That is non-binding. So, if you apply in REA, you still have until May 1 to make your decision, and that restrictive part means that you cannot apply ED or Early Decision to any other school. But you're welcome to apply to any non-binding early action programs. You know, applying REA gives you more time to make your decision, gives you some more time to visit the campus after you know you've already been admitted,

and gives you more time to review your financial aid. So you'll have from mid-December to May to make that decision. I would say one good reason to apply an REA is the priority consideration for merit scholarships. So, students who apply early will have priority consideration, but there's certainly merit scholarships available in regular decision as well. Maria, do you want to talk about when would be a good time to apply for regular decision? Maria Finan: Yeah, so I always tell students, you know, if you need more time for any reason, that is a perfectly good reason to apply regular decision. Our goal is to admit about half the class in early and about half the class in regular. And as Montana said, like, we are reading applications in the same way for both deadlines. So, if you really want us to see a whole first semester of grades, that's a reason you might want to apply regular.

Maria Finan: For students who apply early, we will typically see a progress report, or maybe a quarter, or a trimester, but we won't see that whole first semester. Many of our students Maria Finan: want to take a standardized test again. If you're hoping to take a standardized test after October, the only way for us to see that test score is if you apply during regular. And obviously, as Montana mentioned, if you're applying early decision somewhere else, we ask that you wait until you receive that decision to consider applying to Notre Dame, which would mean applying during regular decision. So, submit your application when it's the strongest. Maria Finan: We really do just want to read, kind of, the best application you put forth, and that is what we review for merit scholarships. So there's nothing additional you need to do. Put the effort into the application, and either way, whatever deadline works best for you is probably the best time to apply. Thanks so much for joining us. We really appreciate you listening to another episode of College Bound, and I'm sure the next question we're going to hear about is testing, so just know that we'll be tackling what our testing policy is and our advice around standardized testing next.