



“Without becoming a nuisance, keep the admissions committee abreast of any *new* accomplishments on a regular basis.”

## Deferred not Deterred

Preparing college applications is an arduous and stressful process. Taking tests, writing essays and seeking recommendations require months of preparation. Sometimes this effort is rewarded by early admittance to a top choice school. By applying early, a student hopes to receive a letter of admission in December. Unfortunately, even for many of the most talented students, the letter from admissions informs them of deferral. What exactly is a deferral and what is the best way to manage one?

The admissions committee’s mandate is to put together a talented group of motivated and highly diverse young people who will contribute to campus life and ultimately be successful graduates. When deciding upon early applicants, the admissions committee has yet to see the larger, regular decision, applicant pool. Aside from a number of stand-out applicants who do receive early admission, a number of suitable candidates may be deferred so that the admissions committee can consider them in light of the total applicant pool. When a student is deferred, he or she will receive an "admit" or "deny" decision at the same time as regular decision applicants.

It is possible to improve one’s chances of admission. Here are just a few helpful suggestions:

- If you have not interviewed, now is the time to do it...preferably on campus. Make sure you **practice your interview skills with a seasoned interviewer** until you are confident that your skills are strong.

(Continued on page 3)

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**Winning Tip:** A deferral is a maybe. Convince your top choice school to say “yes.”

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**Coming Soon:  
Winning Applications  
Workshops**

# Admissions Q & A: What's a junior to do?

Q: My daughter is a junior in high school. I don't want to stress her out by focusing on the college admissions process too early, but is there anything she could do now so her senior year won't be a nightmare for us all?

A: In addition to maintaining/increasing her grade point average and continuing her extracurricular activities, smart juniors should do the following to make senior year less stressful:

- Take the AP/SAT/ACT Subject tests. As soon as your daughter finishes a final exam in one of her strongest subjects, she should take the exam(s) in that subject.
- Visit schools as soon as possible.
  - She should start to identify what she likes (dislikes) in schools. Is it the right size? Would she like a close relationship with her teachers? Does she need a lot of handholding in assignments/choosing classes, or minimal oversight?
  - Suggest that she consider the environment when choosing schools. Has she ever lived in an urban or rural environment? Can she be happy without trees or traffic?
- Write it now.
  - Don't wait. Your daughter should write her long and short essays as soon as possible.
- Encourage your daughter to talk to her senior friends about their experiences.
- Suggest she develop/maintain relationships with "recommenders."
- Have her meet with her guidance counselor 2 to 4 times this year.

**Submit your admissions questions to [info@winningapplications.net](mailto:info@winningapplications.net)**

## **Pop Quiz: Match the Admissions Terms**

A. Early Action (EA)      B. Early Decision (ED)      C. Deferred      D. Waitlist

1. Prospective student applies in November and receives a binding admissions decision in mid December. If admitted to the school, he/she must attend.
2. A prospective student applies early and is told his admission decision will come on the same date as those students who applied on the regular decision deadline.
3. A prospective student is not given a decision, but instead is asked to wait indefinitely for the school's admit/deny decision.
4. A prospective student submits his application in November and receives a nonbinding admission decision in mid December. If admitted, he is not obligated to attend.

*(Answers on page 4)*



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*"Your daughter should write her long and short essays as soon as possible."*

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## Spotlight School: Brown University, Providence, RI

- Private, 4 -Year University, Coed, Suburban
- 5,772 Undergraduate Students/1,970 Graduate Students
- 96% of Students Return as Sophomores
- 96% Graduate within 6 years
- SAT and SAT Subject Tests or ACT with Writing

Perched high upon Providence, Rhode Island’s College Hill, Brown University’s Van Wickle gates open twice a year, once as robed faculty and administrators welcome freshman and a second time to salute graduating seniors. In contrast to Brown’s traditional college green are its open-minded, liberal curriculum (twenty-eight to thirty-two courses are required for graduation) and freethinking student body. Students note that conservative thought can be squelched by the homogeneous liberalness of the student body. They also note that the education is what you make of it...if you’re looking for structure and handholding Brown is not your school. If you want an eclectic education that you take part in creating, welcome.



“What percent of students are typically admitted after being deferred?”

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## Deferred not Deterred (Continued from page 1)

- If you can, visit the campus...again.
- Attend an information session, often given by a member of the admissions committee. Ask questions such as, “What percent of students are typically admitted after being deferred?” and “Is there anything I can do that might increase my chances of gaining admission?” Not only will this earmark you as a deferred candidate, but the information session speaker may note your visit and strong school interest in your application file. When your application is reevaluated, that interest will shine through. Since schools are more inclined to extend offers to students they believe will accept admission, this is critical.
- Without becoming a nuisance, keep the admissions committee abreast of any **new** accomplishments on a regular basis.

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# Winning Applications

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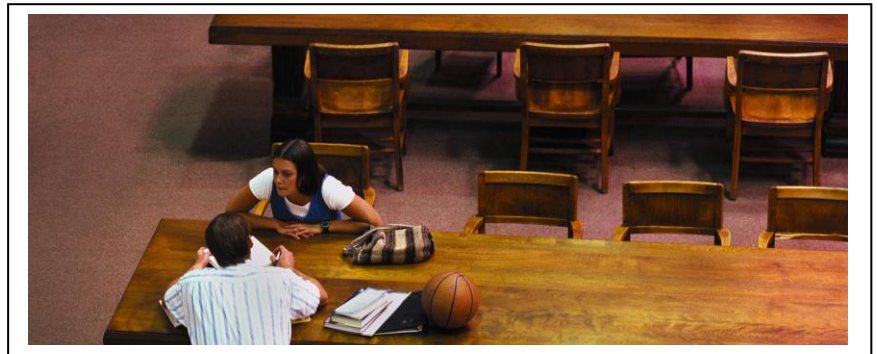
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## Deferred not Deterred

- Ask someone who has **not** read your application to read it and offer constructive criticism. This may give you a fresh perspective on why you were deferred. Perhaps, unknowingly, you gave the wrong impression or neglected to include something important. Not only will you, hopefully, be able to “fix it” by sending the school that deferred you some clarification, but you may also be able to avoid a similar miscommunication at other schools.

Given the competitive nature of college admissions, it is smart to research and apply regular decision to other schools. A deferral, while far from ideal, if properly managed can still lead to admission.

**Winning Applications article published in *The Ridgefield Press* January 4, 2007**



Pop Quiz: Match the Admissions Terms (Answers)

1. B 2. C 3. D 4. A

## *About Winning Applications*

Welcome to Winning Applications! We offer expert guidance in the college and graduate school application process. Our consultants, who have worked in university admissions, help students get into preferred schools in the United States and abroad. Through thoughtful and individualized effort, we enable students to develop successful applications that showcase each student's special talents and best attributes.

The Winning Applications team provides counseling and advice through all stages of the application process. From school selection to essay preparation and interview training, we help students navigate the admissions process with confidence and ease.