

Early Decision

Oberlin College seeks to enroll highly qualified students who have determined that Oberlin will meet their needs better than any other college. For students whose top college choice is Oberlin, we have established two early decision application options. Students who apply under Oberlin's Early Decision plan submit an early application and receive admission and financial aid decisions well in advance of the regular admissions process. They are freed from the virtually year-long stress of the college admission process, and are better able to enjoy their senior year.

When a student applies Early Decision, that student makes a commitment to only one college and, therefore, may not apply as an Early Decision candidate to any other college. However, regular applications to other colleges may be prepared and submitted as a contingency plan.

An Early Decision application submitted to Oberlin College will either be accepted, deferred, or denied. If accepted, **the student is expected to enroll at Oberlin College, withdraw all other applications, and initiate no new applications.** If the application is deferred, the student will be re-considered during the regular admission process, and is no longer considered an Early Decision applicant.

Some students considering an Early Decision application are hesitant because of financial aid issues. Oberlin College is determined to make sure that **financial aid concerns will not be an impediment to Early Decision.** We have done so in the following ways:

- So that applicants and their families will know if Oberlin is affordable **before** they commit to an Early Decision application, financial aid applicants may request an estimate of their projected aid prior to the time of application. To do so, you must request an **Early Decision Financial Aid Estimator Form** from the Office of Admissions two weeks prior to the application for admission deadline. You will be informed of the projected amount of the award before you submit the Early Decision application.

- Early Decision applicants with significantly strong academic records are eligible for the same Oberlin Merit Scholarships as regular decision applicants.
- The final financial aid award letter will be mailed at the same time as the admissions decision letter.

If you have any questions about financial aid, please call the **Office of Financial Aid at 1-800-693-3173** or e-mail them at financial.aid@oberlin.edu.

There are two Early Decision application deadline options from which to choose:

- **November 15** for a decision in mid-December.
- **January 2** for a decision in late January.

A student admitted under the Early Decision plan is required to complete an Intent-to-Enroll card and submit a \$300 enrollment deposit to reserve their space in the class. The Early Decision option is available for admission to the College of Arts & Sciences only. **The Conservatory of Music offers a non-binding early review for applicants auditioning on campus in December.** Double Degree applicants may apply Early Decision to the College of Arts & Sciences, but should only do so if they intend to enroll at the College of Arts & Sciences even if they are not admitted to the Conservatory of Music. If you would like to discuss the Early Decision process with a member of the Oberlin Admissions staff, please call us at 1-800-622-6243 or e-mail us at college.admissions@oberlin.edu

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