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# Princeton

**Class of 2016**

## **Undergraduate Admission Application and Instructions**

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[www.princeton.edu/admission](http://www.princeton.edu/admission)

# Undergraduate Admission Application and Instructions

Class of 2016



Admission Office  
P.O. Box 430  
Princeton, NJ 08542-0430  
(609) 258-3060  
[www.princeton.edu/admission](http://www.princeton.edu/admission)

**Princeton University** prepares students to become leaders who will address the challenges of the future. Princeton aims to enroll the most talented students from all parts of the world and to provide them with an exceptional educational experience.

The University's admission process involves a holistic review of each applicant's entire file. Our process involves a highly individualized

assessment of the applicant's intellectual curiosity, achievements, and his or her potential to contribute to learning at Princeton. Students who need financial aid are not at a disadvantage in the admission process. Princeton welcomes applications from students of diverse economic backgrounds.

## HOW TO APPLY

Students apply to Princeton by submitting both the Common Application and Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application, available online at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

To submit your application on paper, you may obtain the Common Application form from your guidance counselor or download and print a PDF of both the Common Application and Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application from [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) or the Princeton website ([www.princeton.edu/admission](http://www.princeton.edu/admission)).

A nonrefundable \$65 application fee is required to cover part of the cost of processing each application. Students applying online may pay the fee with a credit card.

Applications submitted by mail should include a check or money order payable to Princeton University. If payment of this fee would cause extreme financial hardship, it may be waived upon a written request from the applicant's counselor that includes a brief explanation of the reason for the waiver.

## IMPORTANT DATES

The final postmark or electronic submission deadline is **November 1, 2011**, for Single-Choice Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision. We encourage Regular Decision applicants to submit their portion of the application by **December 15, 2011**, if possible. Early Action applicants will receive a decision from us in **mid-December 2011**, and Regular Decision applicants will receive a decision from us by early **April 2012**.

Early Action applicants will either be offered admission, denied admission, or deferred to the Regular Decision pool. Outcomes for Regular Decision include: admission to Princeton (students must accept or refuse our offer by **May 1, 2012**); refusal of admission; or assignment to a waiting list of candidates to whom offers of admission may be extended if space permits.

Regular Decision applicants must take the SAT or ACT (with Writing, where offered), and two SAT Subject Tests, no later than the **January 2012** test date. We recommend that Early Action applicants complete their standardized tests by **November 1, 2011**. If that is not possible, results for tests taken in November should be sent directly to Princeton.

## TEST REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must take the SAT or ACT (with Writing, where offered). In addition, all applicants must submit the results of two

SAT Subject Tests. Applicants should have the testing agencies send official score reports directly to Princeton. Subject Tests should be in two different subjects, if possible.

## Score Choice

Applicants are welcome to use the Score Choice option for standardized test score submission. Princeton will consider the highest individual section results across all sittings of the SAT and the highest composite score for the ACT with Writing, as well as the two highest SAT Subject Test scores. We encourage applicants to submit all official test scores as soon as they are available.

## SAT Subject Tests for Engineering (B.S.E.)

Applicants who intend to pursue a B.S.E. degree should take one SAT Subject Test in either physics or chemistry and one SAT Subject Test in mathematics (Level I or II).

## TOEFL for Non-Native Speakers of English

If English is not your native language and you are attending a school where English is not the language of instruction, you must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in addition to the SAT or ACT, and SAT Subject Tests, and have your scores reported to Princeton by the testing agency. Students who have attended an English-medium secondary school for at least three years are not required to submit TOEFL results.

The TOEFL examination is administered by the Educational Testing Service at many testing centers throughout the world. You may register for the TOEFL at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

PRINCETON'S  
TEST CODES

**SAT-2672**

**ACT-2588**

**TOEFL-2672**

## TRANSFER ADMISSION

Princeton does not offer a transfer admission option. Students who have begun college or university studies elsewhere are considered transfer applicants and, as such, are ineligible to apply for undergraduate admission.

## FINANCIAL AID

Princeton's no-loan financial aid program assists all qualified applicants with generous need-based grants, making the University affordable to low- and middle-income families. Committed to ensuring economic diversity, Princeton provides grants and campus jobs to meet the full demonstrated need for all students offered admission. These policies apply to both domestic and international applicants.

You may apply for financial aid at [www.princeton.edu/apply/aid](http://www.princeton.edu/apply/aid). If you are unable to apply for financial aid online, please contact the Undergraduate Financial Aid Office at (609) 258-3330, or e-mail [faoffice@princeton.edu](mailto:faoffice@princeton.edu).

## MATRICULATION AND DEFERMENT

Students may only begin an undergraduate degree program at Princeton in the fall semester. Admitted students may request to defer enrollment for one year in order to travel, work, perform military service, or pursue other activities—with the exception of enrolling full-time at another college or university. Requests for deferment must be made in writing to the Dean of Admission by May 10, 2011.

## INTERVIEWS

If there are sufficient volunteers in your area, you may be invited to meet a member of one of our Alumni Schools Committees after you submit your application. An interview is not required for admission to Princeton, and you will not be at a disadvantage should you live in an area where volunteers are not available. We do not conduct on-campus interviews, but invite you to visit Princeton, if possible, to learn more about the University.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you have additional questions regarding the application process, please contact us at:

Admission Office  
Princeton University  
P.O. Box 430  
Princeton, NJ 08542-0430

Tel (609) 258-3060  
[uaoffice@princeton.edu](mailto:uaoffice@princeton.edu)  
[www.princeton.edu/admission](http://www.princeton.edu/admission)

## Admission Application Checklist

*Please read all of the instructions on each page of the application forms carefully.*

### REQUIRED ITEMS

- Mail or electronically submit the Common Application and Princeton's Supplement to the Common Application by **November 1, 2011**, for Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision. We encourage Regular Decision applicants to submit their portion of the application by **December 15, 2011**.
  - Include with your application the \$65 application fee. If payment of this fee would cause extreme financial hardship, it may be waived upon a written request from your guidance counselor that includes a brief explanation of the reason for the waiver.
- You will receive an e-mail (if you provided an e-mail address) or a letter from us confirming that we have received your application.
- Ask your high school counselor, principal, or other school official to complete and send the Secondary School Report along with an official transcript of your grades by **November 1, 2011**, for Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision, if possible.
  - Ask your high school counselor, principal, or other school official to complete and send the Midyear Report by **February 1, 2012**, for both Early Action and Regular Decision.
  - Ask two of your teachers—in different academic subject areas—to complete and send the Teacher Evaluation forms by **November 1, 2011**, for Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision.
  - We recommend that you take the SAT or ACT, and two SAT Subject Tests, no later than **November 1, 2012**, for Early Action and no later than the **January 2012** test date for Regular Decision, and have the testing agencies send official score reports directly to Princeton. If you reside outside the United States, we strongly advise you to complete all testing by **December 2011** for Regular Decision.

Once we have created your application file, we will contact you if any required pieces of your application are missing. (Contact will be by e-mail if you provided an e-mail address or by mail if you did not.) You may also track your application online using the PIN you listed on your application.

Once we have received all the required pieces of your application, we will send you another e-mail or note in the mail confirming that your application is complete.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- In addition to all other required application materials, students at schools outside the United States must include the Common Application International Supplement.

### FINANCIAL AID

- If you plan to apply for financial aid, you must complete and submit Princeton's Financial Aid Application by **November 10, 2011**, for Early Action and **February 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision.

### OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Optional Arts Form. Students who wish to demonstrate their talents in the arts (e.g., architecture, creative writing, dance, music, theater, visual arts) should submit Princeton's Optional Arts Form. Be sure to follow the guidelines listed in the Princeton Supplement and not those on the Common Application Arts Supplement form. The deadline to submit your samples is **November 1, 2011**, for Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision. We strongly encourage Regular Decision applicants to submit this portion of their application by **December 15, 2011**.
- Athletes. Please do not use the Common Application Athletic Supplement. Students interested in playing a varsity sport at Princeton should contact the Princeton coach for that sport.
- Home School Supplement form. This Common Application form is for students who have been home schooled. It is available at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) and the Princeton website, [www.princeton.edu/admission](http://www.princeton.edu/admission). The deadline is **November 1, 2011**, for Early Action and **January 1, 2012**, for Regular Decision.

# Joint Statement on Common Ivy Group Admissions Procedures

This statement appears in section X-E of the Ivy Manual. The Admissions Committee revised the statement this spring to reflect changes in institutional early action programs, and to clarify the expectation that coaches from other Ivy League institution may not have contact with students admitted under the Early Decision program.

## **E. Joint Statement for Candidates on Common Ivy League Admission Procedure [intended for all applicants and included on all Ivy admission forms]**

The Ivy League is an association of eight institutions of higher education, established in 1954 primarily for the purpose of fostering amateurism in athletics. Relations between the member institutions have grown over the years, and representatives of these institutions now meet regularly at a variety of levels to discuss topics which range from the purely academic to the purely athletic and from fundamental educational philosophy to procedures in admissions.

Each member institution has its own identity and character and protects its right to pursue its own educational objectives. Thus, although the Ivy League institutions are similar in many respects, each member institution will continue to make its own independent admission decisions according to its own particular admissions policy. In recent years, however, it has become clear that the transition between secondary school and institutions of higher education has become increasingly complex and that greater efforts should be made to simplify the process through more uniform admissions procedures. It is our hope that by outlining carefully the procedures under which we are operating and by clearly specifying the obligations of both the applicant and the institution, we can help students pursue their college interests free of unnecessary confusion and pressure.

### **I. General Procedures**

All contacts with students by representatives of Ivy institutions are intended to provide assistance and information and should be free of any activity that applies undue pressure on the candidate. No information referring to the admission or financial-aid status of an applicant to any Ivy institution may be considered official unless it is received directly from that institution's admission or financial aid office.

Ivy institutions mail admission decision letters twice annually, in mid-December and late March/early April. Those who wish a decision in December must apply by November 1. A student may not file more than one early application within the Ivy League.

### **II. December Notification**

Under December Notification, an applicant may be notified that he or she has been granted or denied admission or that a final decision has been deferred until the late March/early April notification date. Two plans are offered according to individual institutional policy:

**A.** The College Board-approved Early Decision Plan, which is offered by Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, and the University of Pennsylvania, requires a prior commitment to matriculate. Financial aid awards for those qualifying for financial assistance will normally be announced in full detail at the same time as the admission decisions. An applicant receiving admission and an adequate financial award under the Early Decision Plan will be required to accept that offer of admission and withdraw all applications to other colleges or universities. All Ivy institutions will honor any required commitment to matriculate that has been made to another college under this plan. Coaches from other Ivy League institutions are prohibited from having any recruiting contact with prospects who have been accepted under this plan.

**B.** A Single Choice Early Action Plan is offered by Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. This plan does not require a commitment to matriculate, and students may apply to other colleges under those colleges' regular admission programs (spring notification of final admission decision) but not to another institution's Early Action or Early Decision program. Students admitted under Early Action will be sent a financial aid offer when they receive their acceptance decision if they have completed all of the required financial aid forms.

Students are urged to consult the admission literature available at each Ivy institution for details concerning its particular December Notification Plan.

### **III. Early Evaluation Procedure**

**A.** As determined by each institution, admissions offices may choose to advise applicants of the probability of admission (e.g., likely, possible, unlikely). Institutions may issue likely letters only in writing, from the office of admission. Likely letters will have the effect of letters of admission, to be confirmed on the common notification date, subject to revocation only on the same terms as letters of admission.

**B.** Within each institution's overall admissions process, from October 1 through March 15 an admissions office may issue probabilistic communications, in writing, to applicants who are recruited student-athletes. (Such communications given by coaches, whether orally or in writing, do not constitute binding institutional commitments.) An applicant who receives one or more such written communications and who has made a decision to matriculate

at one institution is encouraged (but not required) to notify all other institutions, and to withdraw all other applications, as promptly as possible.

**C.** A coach may both inquire about a candidate's level of commitment to an Ivy institution, or interest in attending that Ivy institution, and encourage that interest. However, a candidate may not be required to make a matriculation commitment, to withdraw other applications, or to refrain from visiting another institution, as a condition for receiving a "likely" letter, or an estimate of financial aid eligibility, or a coach's support in the admissions process. In addition, coaches may not request that candidates not share estimates of financial aid eligibility with other schools.

**D.** An institution ordinarily may send a "likely" probabilistic communication letter to a candidate (whether or not the applicant is a recruited athlete) only if the applicant has submitted all of the materials which the institution requires in order to make an admissions decision. Infrequently and for compelling reasons, an institution may send such a "likely" communication that does not have "all" of those materials, as provided below, but only if: (i) the other materials in the applicant's file at that time provide the institution with a clear basis for making a binding positive admissions decision about the applicant, consistent with the institution's general standards for making such decisions; and (ii) the material in question is submitted before a final letter of admission is issued. In these circumstances, a "likely" communication may be based on a file that includes an official application, an official transcript, the SAT or ACT examination, one essay, and at least one recommendation from the student's school (either teacher recommendation or administrator recommendation).

**E.** An Ivy school may respond at any time beginning October 1 should a non-Ivy school offer admission to a recruited student-athlete with a reply date prior to the common Ivy notification date.

### **IV. Common Notification Date**

On a common date, usually in late March or early April, applicants to the Ivy institutions will be notified of admission decisions and financial aid awards, unless they have been notified earlier under Early Decision Plan or Early Action Plan procedures. (Letters are mailed beginning in February for the Schools of Hotel Administration, and Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell, and beginning in February for the School of Nursing at Penn.)

### **V. Financial Aid**

All the Ivy institutions follow the common policy that any financial aid for student-athletes will be awarded and renewed on the sole basis of economic need with no differentiation in amount or in kind (e.g., packaging) based on athletic ability or participation, provided that each school shall apply its own standard of economic need. The official award of aid may only be made at or subsequent to the time of admission.

Only the Office of Financial Aid has the authority to award financial aid on behalf of the institution, and applicants should rely only on formal communications from these offices. No suggestion that financial aid may be available that comes from anyone else associated with the institution is binding on the institution. No applicant should consider or accept an offer of financial help from an alumnus, and any such offer should be reported immediately to the Office of Financial Aid.

### **VI. Common Reply Date**

Except for those applicants admitted under the College Board-approved Early Decision Plan, which requires a prior commitment to matriculate, no candidate admitted to any of the Ivy institutions will be required to announce his or her decision to accept or decline an offer of admission until the Common Reply Date of May 1. All such candidates may delay their commitment to attend until May 1 without prejudice. By that date all admitted candidates must affirm in writing their single choice.

The preceding paragraph does not preclude students from remaining on active waiting lists and withdrawing promptly from their original college choice upon receiving subsequent waiting list acceptance to another institution. However, the Ivy institutions reserve their right to rescind acceptance decisions from candidates who make commitments to and who hold confirmed places at more than one institution concurrently. Students who choose to remain on an active waiting list after May 1 will receive a final response no later than July 1.

### **VII. Participating Institutions**

Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Yale University