

Understanding College Decision Day (May 1)



May 1 is an important date for high school seniors making their college decision. There is a lot of confusion regarding this deadline, so we've compiled some common questions for your reference.

What does the May 1 deadline mean?

Colleges are asked to hold all offers of admission, student financial aid, and academic scholarships for students through May 1. Early Decision acceptances and athletic scholarships are the *only* exceptions.

Who decided May 1 is the deadline?

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the group that oversees college admission practices, has set May 1 as the deadline.

What if I decide on a college before May 1?

Terrific! You're more than welcome to commit to an institution before May 1. We'd be really, really happy if that school was Creighton! Either way, you will have a stress-free Decision Day if you have already chosen a college to attend.

A school said I need to decide before May 1 to keep my spot in the class or to keep a scholarship. What do I do?

Talk to your high school counselor. It's against the rules for a college to require you to commit before May 1 in order to keep an academic scholarship, need-based aid, or a spot in a limited-enrollment program, like an honors program. The *only* exceptions are athletic scholarships and Early Decision admission offers.

We know this can be a stressful process. We don't want you feeling like you have less time than you do to make the best decision possible.

Why does it matter?

Largely, this policy exists to protect students. Students should have all of the information they need before making their decision. That might be financial information or a final visit to campus to get a feel for daily life as a student. You don't need to feel extra pressure to decide earlier.

Can I tell a school I'm not considering them anymore?

Yes! We know it can be awkward to let a college representative know you aren't considering their school anymore. However, as you narrow down your list, you are encouraged to let schools know if they aren't on your radar anymore. Send them a polite email or give them a call letting them know of your future plans. They may be bummed to hear you don't plan to enroll, but will also respect you contacting them.

Why can't I deposit at multiple schools?

Submitting a deposit is stating your intent to enroll at a school. Since you can't attend multiple institutions, it's considered unethical. Institutions reserve the right to rescind an offer of admission if they discover that a student has made a double deposit. Just as there are rules in places for colleges, there are expectations for students as well.

Is my deposit refundable?

Be sure to ask each of the institutions you're considering, as this answer varies from school to school, particularly as it relates to housing. Creighton's deposit is non-refundable. We take your deposit to mean you are enrolling in the fall.

How much is the deposit?

Once again, be sure to ask each school, as it is determined by the institution. At Creighton, the deposit is \$500. \$400 is essentially paying tuition early and \$100 is a housing deposit for on-campus residence halls.

Do I get better preference for housing if I deposit early?

No. Everyone who deposits at Creighton by May 1 goes into the same housing lottery. Schools that don't have room for all first-year students must make housing deposits refundable if you decide not to enroll. Institutions can't use housing as a way to coerce you into making a non-refundable deposit.