

# Applying as a Freshman

## Admission Philosophy

At Carnegie Mellon, we select our freshmen class from a large group of very qualified candidates. We don't use a calculation to arrive at our admitted class. Calculations can't take into account all of the factors we like to consider when making admission decisions. No single grade, factor, score or activity will automatically gain or deny you admission to Carnegie Mellon. We treat every applicant as an individual, taking great care to make our admission decisions fair, thorough and sensitive. We're interested in students who can be successful at Carnegie Mellon, while taking full advantage of all the university has to offer and enriching our campus community.

## Admission Criteria

The majority of our applicants are admissible and could be successful at Carnegie Mellon. We use a variety of factors to select our first-year class from those admissible candidates.

## Academic and Artistic Potential

Our admission process is designed to select a highly talented, diverse undergraduate population who will succeed at Carnegie Mellon. If you are applying to academic programs, your high school performance will be the main factor in our admission decision because it's the most meaningful indication of your abilities. We pay close attention to your curriculum rigor, the grades you've earned and the work you've accomplished. We're interested in seeing that you've challenged yourself within your secondary school environment. If you are applying to programs in the arts, your artistic performance will be either the main factor or a significant factor (depending on the program) in our admission decision. To better understand our admission process, review these guidelines:

If you're interested in:	You'll be admitted primarily on the basis of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School of Art, Design, Drama or Music</li></ul>	Portfolio review, design project or audition, as well as academic performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>School of Architecture</li></ul>	Online questionnaire, recommended review of creative work and academic performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</li><li>Information Systems</li></ul>	Academic performance, with emphasis on reading and comprehension abilities and mathematics courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Carnegie Institute of Technology</li><li>Mellon College of Science</li><li>School of Computer Science</li><li>Tepper School of Business</li></ul>	Academic performance, with emphasis on strength in mathematics and science

## Academic Tests

Academic test scores add to our knowledge of your ability, but we don't make decisions simply on the basis of test scores. Your high school record and standardized test scores (SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing and SAT Subject Tests) work together to make up the academic portion of your evaluation.

## Activities, Jobs and Other Interests

Your non-academic activities, including extracurricular accomplishments, part-time jobs, hobbies and community service also play a very important role in the admission process. We also consider leadership, motivation, out-of-class recognition, community and volunteer service and other experiences when making admission decisions.

Our students make Carnegie Mellon an exciting campus. The positive qualities and diverse experiences you bring with you will enrich our community. By looking at this non-academic information, we develop a sense of your personality, motivation and responsibility.

## Interest in Carnegie Mellon

By showing an interest in learning more about Carnegie Mellon, you can enhance your application. We strongly recommend that you have a campus visit before mid-November, which adds a personal touch to our evaluation. See the "Experience Carnegie Mellon" section on page 25 for more details.

## Other Personalized Information

We want to have a sense of who you are as a person so we look very closely at the essay and personal statement you're asked to write, your secondary school counselor's evaluation and your teacher's recommendation.

## College Selection

Carnegie Mellon seeks to enroll students of the highest academic and artistic quality, who also have a broad range of experiences, into its six undergraduate colleges. Think carefully about your Carnegie Mellon college selection(s) before applying. While you may apply to a variety of colleges that match your interests, bear in mind that most applicants will only be selected for the top college choices to which they are admissible. Only those students of the highest quality will be granted admission to all of their college selections.

**Early Decision candidates may only apply to their first choice college at Carnegie Mellon. Additional colleges may be added for consideration during Regular Decision for those Early Decision candidates not offered admission. Please note that admission to the university is contingent upon maintaining academic performance and citizenship commensurate with that which resulted in admission.**

## Application Instructions

### 1. Apply for admission only to the specific college(s) in which you are interested.

- Indicate only the college(s) you're interested in, by ranking your program and/or major preferences in the order you'd like us to consider your application on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement. (See listing on page 27 of this booklet.)

- If you are applying to more than one program, there's no need to submit multiple applications and there's no additional cost.
- Be sure to meet the admission requirements for each college or department.
- Early Decision candidates will only be considered for their first choice college.

### 2. Follow these guidelines for each specific area of interest:

**Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT), College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS), Information Systems (IS), Mellon College of Science (MCS), School of Computer Science (SCS) and Tepper School of Business (Tepper)**

We strongly urge you to indicate a program and/or major preference at the time you apply. Although you might not declare a major until the end of your freshman or sophomore year, *we do limit access to certain majors, such as electrical and computer engineering, computer science and business.*

#### College of Fine Arts (CFA)

You must apply directly to one or more of the following: School of Architecture, School of Art, School of Design, School of Drama or School of Music. (See specific application instructions on pages 11-19.)

#### Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA)

The Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA) Program is an intercollege degree-granting program. It is designed for students who would like to combine their interests in the fine arts and computer science rather than pursue a conventional major and degree in either the College of Fine Arts or the School of Computer Science. To be considered for the BCSA program, you must apply and be admitted to both CFA and SCS (you must check the CFA box and SCS box on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement). This program is not open to music theatre, acting, directing, drama design, dramaturgy, music performance, or music, history and culture majors. Not all students admitted to both colleges are selected for the BCSA program.

*Additionally, your application must include an essay describing your interdisciplinary goals in both the fine arts and computer science and how the BCSA program would provide the opportunity and framework for you to accomplish these objectives.* This essay is a central component in the selection process. The BCSA essay fulfills the essay requirement on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement. You do not need to complete another essay. If you are selected for this program, you will be notified in your admission decision letter. This program is not available under Early Decision.

### Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA)

The Bachelor of Humanities and Arts program is an intercollege degree-granting program. It is designed for students who would like to combine and blend their interests in the fine arts and humanities/social sciences rather than pursue a conventional major and degree in either the College of Fine Arts or the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. To be considered for the BHA program, you must apply and be admitted to both CFA and H&SS (you must check the CFA box and H&SS box on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement). This program is *not* open to music theatre or acting majors. Not all students admitted to both colleges are selected for the BHA program.

*Additionally, your application must include an essay describing your interdisciplinary goals in both the fine arts and humanities/social sciences and how the BHA program would provide the opportunity and framework for you to accomplish these objectives.* This essay is a central component in the selection process. The BHA essay fulfills the essay requirement on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement. You do not need to complete another essay. If you are selected for this program, you will be notified in your admission decision letter. This program is not available under Early Decision.

### Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA)

The Bachelor of Science and Arts program is an intercollege degree-granting program. It is designed for students who would like to combine studies in both the fine arts and natural sciences/mathematics rather than pursue a conventional major and degree in either the College of Fine Arts or the Mellon College of Science. To be considered for the BSA program, you must apply and be admitted to both CFA and MCS (you must check the CFA box and MCS box on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement). This program is *not* open to music theatre or acting majors. Not all students admitted to both colleges are selected for the BSA program.

*Additionally, your application must include an essay describing your interdisciplinary goals in the fine arts and natural sciences/mathematics and how the BSA program would provide the opportunity and framework for you to accomplish these objectives.* This essay is a central component in the selection process. The BSA essay fulfills the essay requirement on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement. You do not need to complete another essay. If you are selected for this program, you will be notified in your admission decision letter. This program is not available under Early Decision.

**3. Enclose a non-refundable application fee of \$70 with your application for admission.** (An additional audition fee will be required at the time of online registration for drama and music auditions.)

We require the fee of all applicants, except in extenuating family financial circumstances. To waive the fee, you must send us a College Entrance Examination Board Application Fee Waiver, an ACT Application Fee Waiver or a letter from your secondary school counselor or principal requesting an application for a waiver. **International students (non-U.S.citizens) are not eligible for fee waivers.**

**Be sure to save your Admission ID number found on your application receipt letter. You'll need it to log-on to special Web sites. Admission ID numbers are never given over the phone or via email.**

Should you choose to pay by check or money order, make it payable to Carnegie Mellon University and submit it with your application for admission. **Staple your check or money order to the application.** Do not send cash.

If you're applying to the School of Music, the additional audition fee is \$50. If you're applying to the School of Drama, the audition fee is \$80. Audition fees are payable with VISA or MasterCard at the time of reserving your audition online at <[www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts](http://www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts)>.

**4. We prefer that applicants apply online by completing the Common Application and Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement. If you apply by mail, give your completed application to your secondary school counselor to send to the Office of Admission along with all high school transcripts.** Request that your secondary school counselor send all high school transcripts, including senior year courses and mid-year grades, and a school profile to the Office of Admission as close to January 1, 2009 as possible. **The Office of Admission does not acknowledge receipt of these items. We do not confirm fax or FedEx materials for up to 48 hours during our peak times.** However, after March 1, we will let you know if something is missing. You can check what documents we've received at <<http://my.cmu.edu/site/admission/page.where>>. You will find the required Admission ID number in the letter confirming receipt of your application, as well as in your financial aid package.

If you are applying electronically, please make a copy of your application and supplement for your records. **Applications will *not* be processed unless both an application and supplement are submitted.**

**5. Take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing and two SAT Subject Tests preferably by November, but no later than December. (If**

**you're applying to the Schools of Art, Design, Drama or Music, SAT Subject Tests are not required.) Please refer to the Required Test chart on page 5.** Applicants are required to submit official results of either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT with Writing and SAT Subject Tests. While we are interested in the general pattern of your scores, we give most weight to the highest score you have received on any of the exams. We feel that standardized test scores, when used in combination with other measures of your performance, provide accurate insight into your academic abilities. The results of the January tests may delay your admission decision. Results of the March tests arrive too late to receive proper consideration.

- You must submit the official scores from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Do not register copies. When you register for the test, request that an official CEEB Score Report be sent directly to Carnegie Mellon. You can also make this request at a later date by getting an Additional Report Request Form from your guidance office. **Make sure your name on the application matches the name used to register for these tests. The Carnegie Mellon code number is 2074.**
- Register for these tests at least six weeks prior to the test date.
- Visit your secondary school counselor for more information.
- You may submit your application before receiving all official score reports.

**6. If you're an applicant whose native language is not English and your SAT Critical Reading score is less than 600, you must submit the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in addition to the other required standardized tests.** Visit your secondary school counselor for more information.

**7. If you're applying to the College of Fine Arts' Schools of Art, Design, Drama or Music, you must complete portfolio review or audition requirements. If you are applying to the School of Architecture, you are required to complete an online questionnaire and highly encouraged to submit a portfolio of creative work for review. Please go to <[www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts](http://www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts)> for registration information.** Before you can arrange to have an audition or portfolio review, you must complete and submit the Common Application and Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement no later than December 1, 2008 for architecture, art, design and music Regular Decision, January 1, 2009 for drama Regular Decision or November 1, 2008 for Early Decision. Remember there is no Early Decision consideration given for the School of Drama, composition, flute, piano or voice in the School of

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Music or BCSA/BHA/BSA. However, if you plan to audition for drama in November, you must submit your application for admission by November 1, 2008.

**8. Sign the “Confidentiality Statement” on the School Report Form and give it to your secondary school counselor for completion.** Your counselor should return this form along with the school profile and your transcript, enclosed in the envelope provided, to the Office of Admission as soon as possible.

**9. Complete your personal information on the Teacher Recommendation Form and give it to your teacher to complete.** Also provide an addressed, stamped envelope so your teacher can return the form by January 1, 2009, (November 1, 2008 or December 1, 2008 for Early Decision candidates) to the Office of Admission.

**10. Our Regular Decision application deadline is January 1, 2009. The College of Fine Arts Regular Decision deadline is December 1, 2008.** Refer to pages 4 and 19 for Admission Deadline tables. Be sure you or your counselor return the application, supplement, School Report Form, school profile and complete transcripts by this date.

If you would like an acknowledgment of the receipt of these materials, please complete the enclosed postcard, affix proper postage and send it to us along with your application materials. We will return the postcard to you upon receipt of your application materials. Once your application is processed, a letter confirming the receipt of your application will be sent to the mailing address listed on your application. If you do not receive this confirmation letter six weeks from the date you mailed your application, please contact our office at 412-268-2082.

**IMPORTANT:** We prefer you submit all forms and documents at one time in order to reduce processing time. If you must mail them separately, be sure to print your full name and social security number at the top of each document.

**11. If you’re applying for financial aid, obtain a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online or from your secondary school counselor.** We recommend that you file your FAFSA electronically. The Carnegie Mellon code is 003242. Return your financial aid materials *after* January 1, 2009, but preferably before February 15, 2009.

## Applying Electronically

Go to <[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)> to apply online. If you apply electronically, you must submit both the Common Application and Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement online in order for us to receive your complete application.

## Enrollment Deposit

If you’re offered admission, you must pay a non-refundable deposit of \$600 by May 1, 2009 (Candidate’s Reply Date), or February 1, 2009 for Early Decision, even if you’re receiving financial aid. The deposit will reserve your place in the freshmen class and in university housing. We credit your deposit to the first semester’s charges. **No extensions of the enrollment deposit will be granted.**

The admission staff assumes that your deposit to Carnegie Mellon is your *only* deposit. We reserve the right to cancel our offer of admission if you post an enrollment deposit at another university. Enrollment deposits that are postmarked after the Candidate’s Reply Date (May 1, 2009) will be returned if space is no longer available.

It is expected that all admitted candidates will maintain the same level of academic and non-academic performance which resulted in admission. Failure to do so will result in nullification of your admission.

## University Housing

You are required to live in university housing for the freshman year unless you receive an exemption from the Dean of Student Affairs. Carnegie Mellon will attempt to honor your preferences for university housing based on the date we receive

your enrollment deposit and availability of your preferences. University housing is available on-campus and in the Oakland Community Apartment.

## Deferred Admission

If you’re admitted to Carnegie Mellon and wish to defer your admission, you must submit your request, in writing, to the Office of Admission along with the \$600 enrollment deposit in order to confirm enrollment for the following year. In some cases, students defer their enrollment in order to take a year off to work or travel. *During that year, enrollment in a degree program at another institution is prohibited.*

## Application Plans

### Early Decision Plans

- Ideal for students for whom Carnegie Mellon is their first choice.
- Receive our admission decision early in your senior year (by mid-January).
- If you’re admitted to Carnegie Mellon, you are in a binding agreement to enroll.
- Not available for School of Drama, composition, flute, piano or voice or BCSA/BHA/BSA applicants.
- Not for students who want to compare financial aid offers from other institutions.
- Carnegie Mellon will meet the full demonstrated financial need with a combination of grants, federal and alternative loans and work-study as calculated by the university for all students admitted under Early Decision. However, we do not guarantee to meet full need for students who are deferred or denied admission under Early Decision and later admitted under Regular Decision.
- Three decisions can be given: admit, deny, or defer to Regular Decision.
- Apply to only one college within the university.
- Not for applicants under the age of 17 or for those applying under Early Admission.

If you apply through Early Decision, we encourage you to submit applications to other colleges/universities. However, you must agree to withdraw

## Application Deadlines

Application Plan	Application Deadlines	Admission Notification Dates	File your FAFSA and submit required forms by this date:	Financial Aid Award Notification Date
<b>Early Decision I</b>	November 1, 2008 (not available for drama, composition, flute, piano or voice or BCSA/BHA/BSA)	December 15, 2008	February 15, 2009 (an early estimate of financial aid is available)	No later than April 15, 2009
<b>Early Decision II</b>	December 1, 2008 (not available for architecture, art, design, drama, music, BCSA/BHA/BSA)	January 15, 2009	February 15, 2009 (an early estimate of financial aid is available)	No later than April 15, 2009
<b>Regular Decision</b>	January 1, 2009 (December 1, 2008 for CFA, except for drama)	No later than April 15, 2009	February 15, 2009	No later than April 15, 2009
<b>Early Admission</b> (high school juniors only)	January 1, 2009 (December 1, 2008 for CFA, except for drama)	No later than April 15, 2009	February 15, 2009	No later than April 15, 2009

these applications when notified of Early Decision acceptance and financial aid granted at Carnegie Mellon.

### Early Decision application instructions:

- Check the proper box on the Carnegie Mellon Common Application Supplement stating that you would like to be considered under one of the Early Decision plans.
- You will be considered only to your first-choice college under Early Decision.
- Arrange to have a campus visit that includes an information session or an interview with a member of the admission staff by November 16, 2008 (or an alumni interview by December 1, 2008), if possible.
- Submit the application and supplement no later than November 1, 2008 for Early Decision I or December 1, 2008 for Early Decision II.
- Early Decision applications to the College of Fine Arts should be received by November 1, 2008. Once the application and supplement are filed, architecture, art, design and music applicants are required to complete a portfolio review or audition, and for architecture applicants, at minimum, the required online questionnaire. **You must go to <[www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts](http://www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts)> to register for all fine arts requirements. No Early Decision consideration is given in the School of Drama, composition, flute, piano or voice in the School of Music or BCSA/BHA/BSA. No Early Decision II consideration is given in the Schools of Architecture, Art, Design, Drama, Music or BCSA/BHA/BSA.**
- Include with your application all forms and credentials that are available (official high school transcript, SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing results, SAT Subject Test results).

**IMPORTANT:** You may apply for Early Decision without having taken the required SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing or SAT Subject Tests at the time of submitting your application. However, you should request that the test results be sent directly to Carnegie Mellon as soon as they are completed, but no later than December.

### If you're admitted under one of the Early Decision plans:

- You'll be notified officially, in writing, by the Director of Admission between December 15, 2008 and January 15, 2009. Your acceptance letter will also contain an enrollment reply form to be completed and returned along with the \$600 enrollment deposit by February 1, 2009 or your admission offer will be cancelled.
- If you're applying for financial aid, please see the instructions on page 21.
- **You must withdraw all admission applications to other colleges or universities.**

### Regular Decision Plan

This is the most common plan used by students to apply to Carnegie Mellon.

### Regular Decision application instructions:

- Submit your application and supplement by January 1, 2009 (December 1, 2008 for College of Fine Arts, except for drama).
- Arrange to have a campus visit that includes an information session, an optional interview with a member of the admission staff by November 14, 2008 or an alumni interview by February 1, 2009, if possible.
- Include with your application all forms and credentials that are available (official high school transcript(s), SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing test results, SAT Subject Test results).
- If you're admitted under the Regular Decision

plan, you'll be notified officially of our admission decision in writing, by the Director of Admission by April 15, 2009.

- If you wish to enroll, let us know by posting a \$600 enrollment deposit by May 1, 2009.

### Early Admission Plan

- Opportunity for highly qualified high school juniors to apply early to Carnegie Mellon.
- Ideal for mature, responsible juniors who've exhausted the courses offered at their high schools.
- Applicants under the age of 17 must contact the Dean of Student Affairs Office to discuss housing, services and resources available.

While the campus environment is rich in educational and social opportunities, students younger than traditional college age often face unique challenges in becoming acclimated to the university community. **It is the responsibility of those students under the age of 17 and their parents to contact the Dean of Student Affairs Office to discuss services and resources available in addressing their specific needs. Only students 16 years of age or older are permitted to reside in university housing.**

### Early Admission application instructions:

- Follow the same procedures as Regular Decision applicants.
- Plan to have an interview with a member of the admission staff by November 14, 2008.
- Early Admission candidates are not eligible for our Early Decision plans. *Note that Carnegie Mellon accepts Early Admission applicants only on rare occasions.*

### Mid-Year Freshmen

Carnegie Mellon does not accept applications for mid-year freshmen (i.e., freshmen cannot begin in the spring semester).

## Secondary School Preparation and Required Tests

College	Preferred High School Preparation		Tests <sup>5</sup>
Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT) Mellon College of Science (MCS) School of Computer Science (SCS) Tepper School of Business (Tepper)	4 years English 4 years Mathematics <sup>1</sup> 1 year Chemistry 1 year Physics	1 year Biology 2 years Foreign Language 3 electives	SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing SAT Subject Tests (2) Math Level I, Ic or Ilc, Physics, Chemistry or Biology <sup>4</sup> Prospective business students may take any second test, but preferably a science
College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS) Information Systems (IS)	4 years English 3 years Mathematics <sup>2</sup> - H&SS applicants 4 years Mathematics <sup>1</sup> - IS applicants	1 year Science (2 or more years preferred) 2 years Foreign Language 6 electives	SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing SAT Subject Tests (2) Math Level I, Ic or Ilc One additional test
School of Architecture	4 years English 4 years Mathematics <sup>1</sup> 1 year Physics	2 years Foreign Language 5 electives	SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing SAT Subject Tests (2) Math Level I, Ic or Ilc, Physics or Chemistry
School of Art School of Drama School of Music	4 years English 2 years Foreign Language 10 electives <sup>3</sup>		SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing
School of Design	4 years English 2 years Mathematics 2 years Science	2 years Foreign Language (preferred) 6 electives	SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing

<sup>1</sup>The four years of mathematics should include at least algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry and elementary functions (pre-calculus).

<sup>2</sup>For H&SS applicants, three years should include at least algebra, geometry and trigonometry.

<sup>3</sup>For School of Music applicants, some prior solfège is helpful.

<sup>4</sup>The Biology SAT Subject Test is not acceptable for CIT applicants.

<sup>5</sup>Only test results from the junior or senior year are acceptable.