Early Decision Version 2.3:

Early Decision Workflow and Designs

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Overview

What is Early Decision?

The Early Decision program is a binding option for applicants who have decided that a program is their first choice. Early Decision applicants can apply to only one program and may be offered early admission, denied admission, or deferred to regular applicant status. If an Early Decision applicant is offered admission, the applicant is not permitted to apply to other pharmacy institutions via PharmCAS for the remainder of the cycle. If, however, the applicant is denied admission as an Early Decision applicant or moved to "regular" status, the applicant may apply to other PharmCAS institutions for an additional fee. Refer to the PharmCAS application fee schedule to determine the cost to apply to each additional program.

On rare occasions, there may be extenuating circumstances that could affect an applicant's ability to accept an Early Decision offer and/or enroll in a program (e.g. applicant decides they no longer want to be a pharmacist, personal life circumstances, etc.). Applicants are asked to contact the pharmacy institution directly if a situation arises. As the institution, you are asked to handle each circumstance on a case by case basis.

Concerns from Last Cycle

Last cycle there were reports of applicants being confused with the current workflow of applying to Early Decision. There were issues with applicants missing the Early Decision feature due to the designs not being prominent. A new user experience focused around a redesigned workflow will help solve for this.

Another concern related to the Early Decision feature was the release of applicants that were determined by schools to not meet the requirements for acceptance as an Early Decision applicant to their program. Applicants could have been released much earlier in some cases, allowing them to apply elsewhere prior to the Early Decision verdict date. The nightly release of applicants tied to a decision code will help get applicants back into the regular pool earlier.

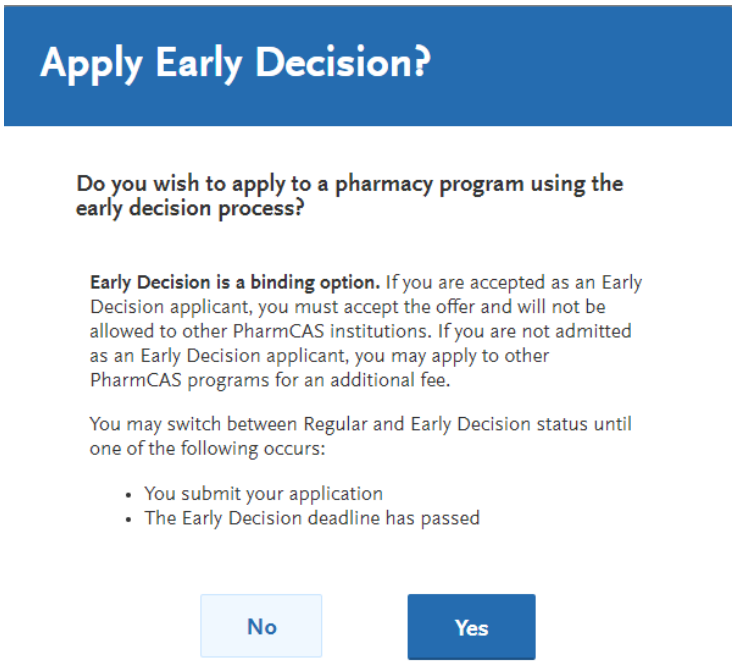
Releasing Applicants on a Nightly Basis

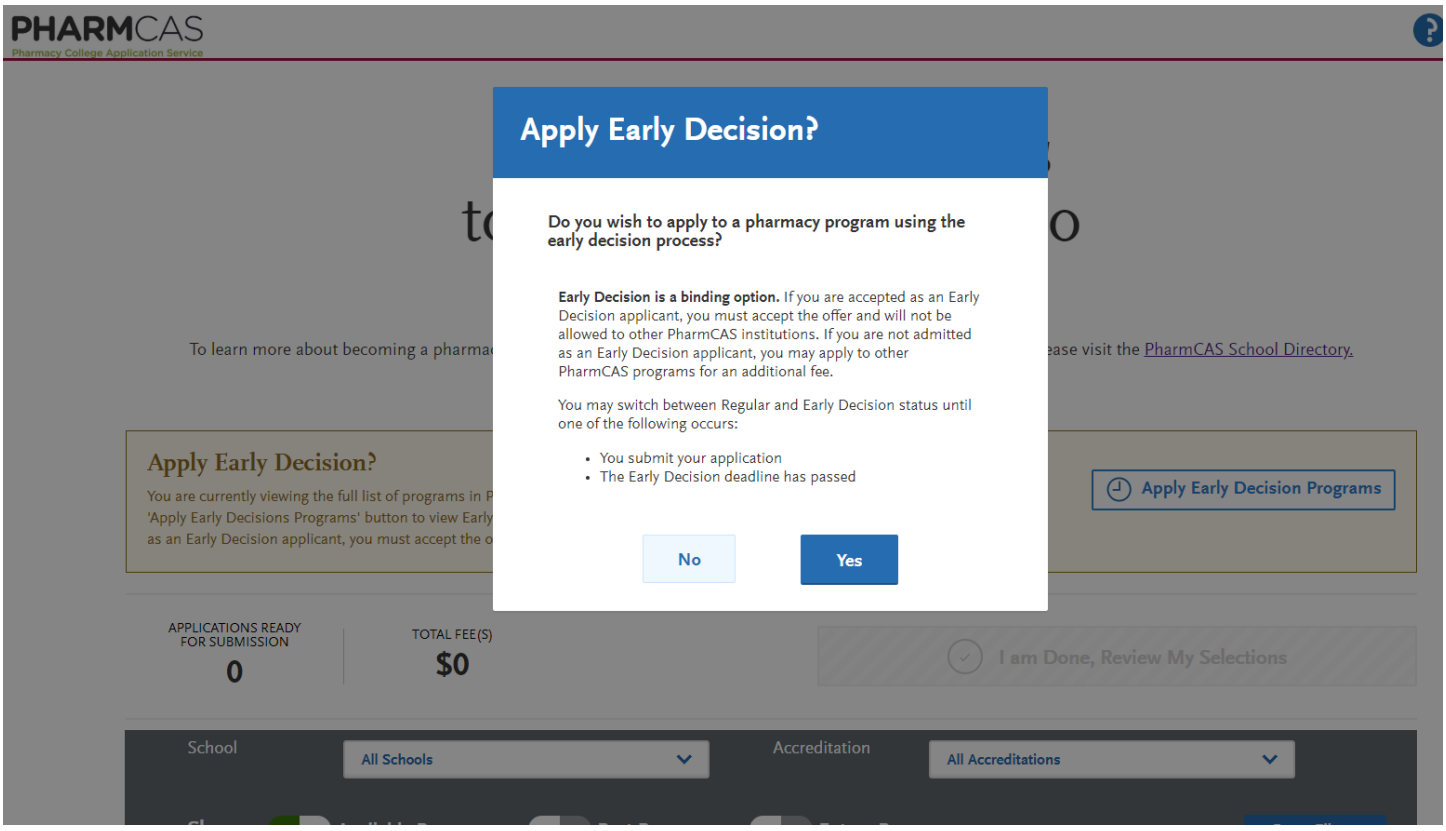
Liaison will be building out the ability for admissions users to release applicants on a nightly basis from WebAdMIT prior to the Early Decision verdict date (October 19, 2019). Admissions users will be able to place applicants into a local status that is tied to this specific decision code that will be designated as returning an applicant to the regular pool. The Applicant Portal will then synchronize with WebAdMIT on a nightly basis to trigger the release of those applicants back to the regular applicant pool. The decision code selected by the PharmCAS Advisory Committee for the 2018-2019 cycle is "**Return Early Decision to Regular Pool**."

Design and Implementation

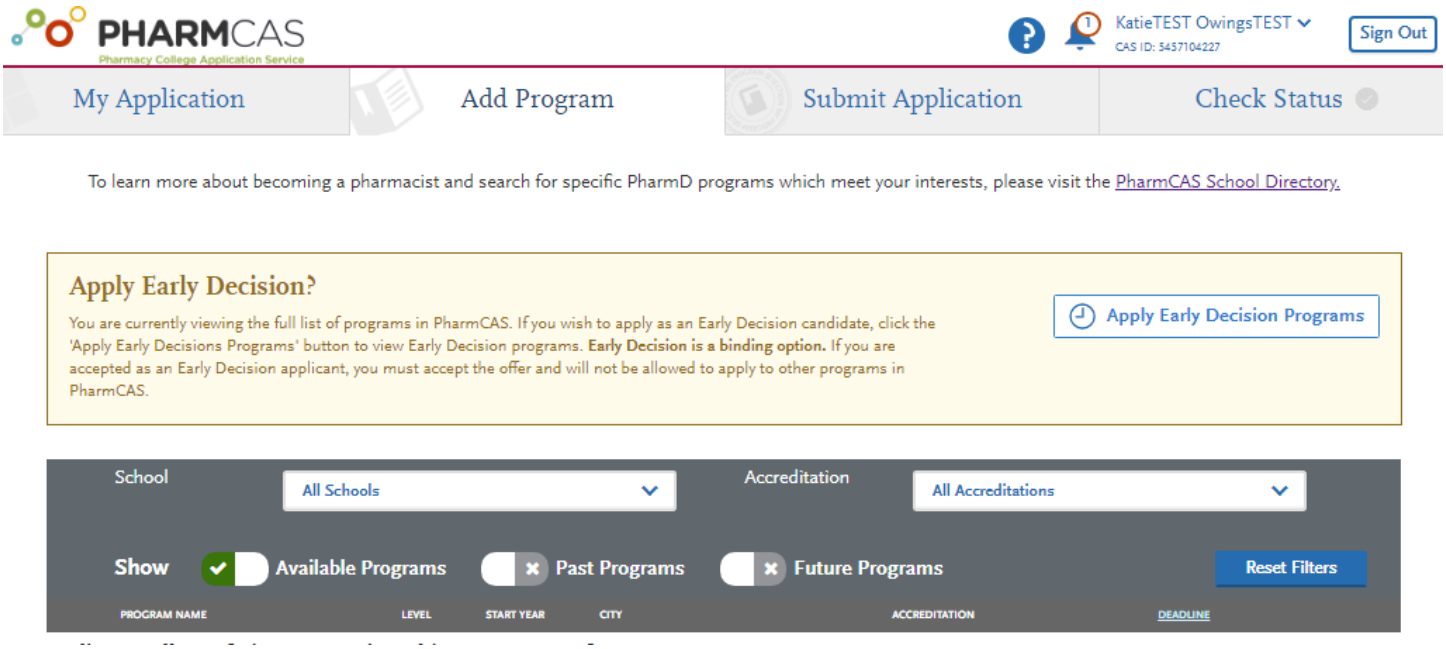
Early Decision User Experience

A. When applicants log in or create an account, they will first be met with an Early Decision modal prompting them of the option to apply Early Decision. They will have the choice to select **Yes** or **No**. If they select **Yes** they will be taken to the Early Decision Program page. If they select **No** they will be taken to the Regular Decision Program page.

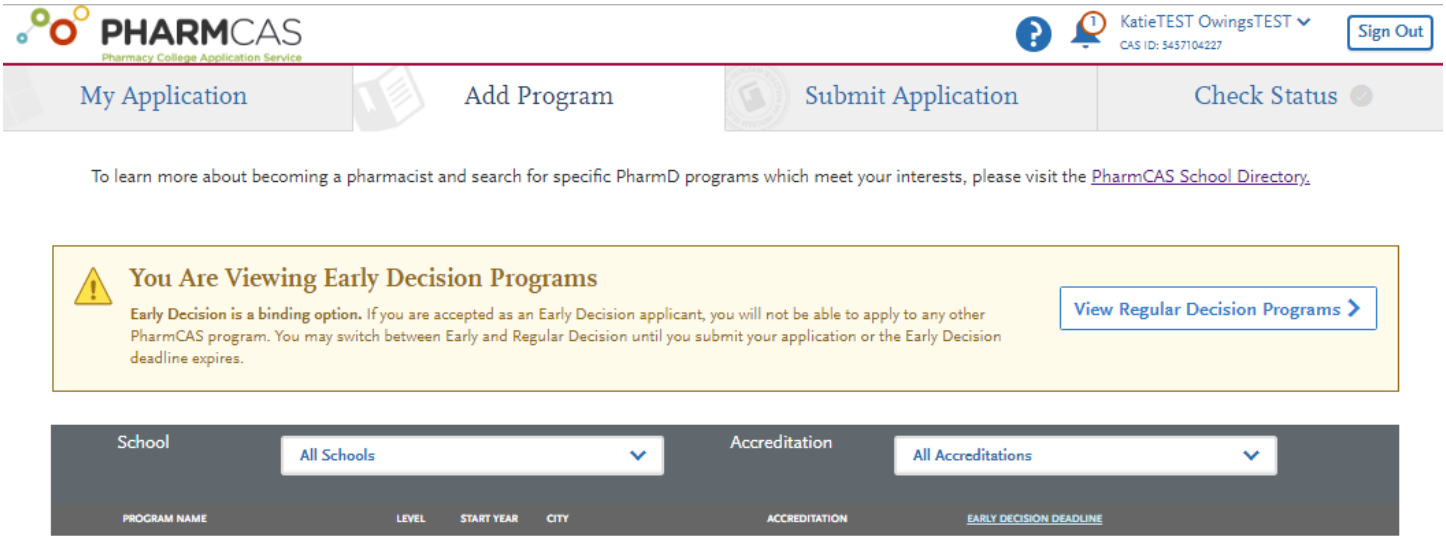




B. The Regular Decision Program page will have an informative banner that stretches across the top. An **Apply Early Decision Programs** button will be embedded in the banner allowing applicants to toggle back to the Early Decision screen.

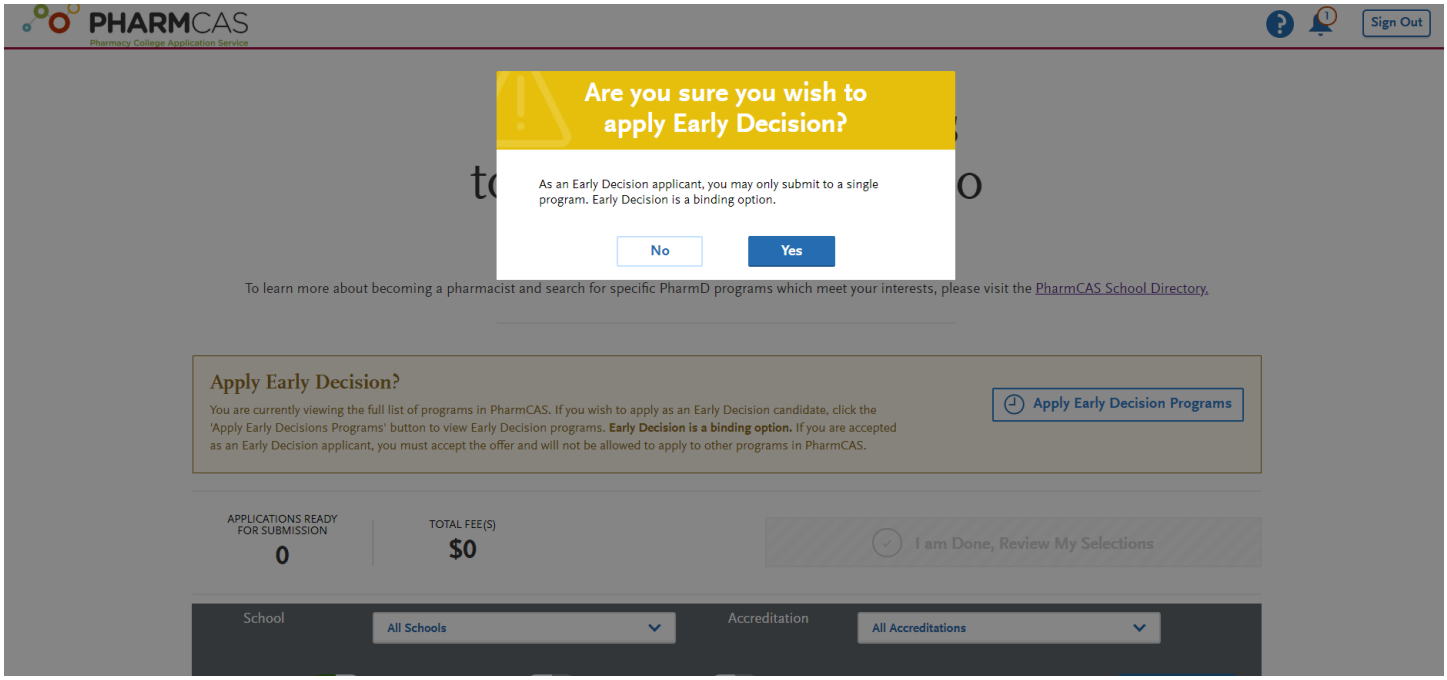


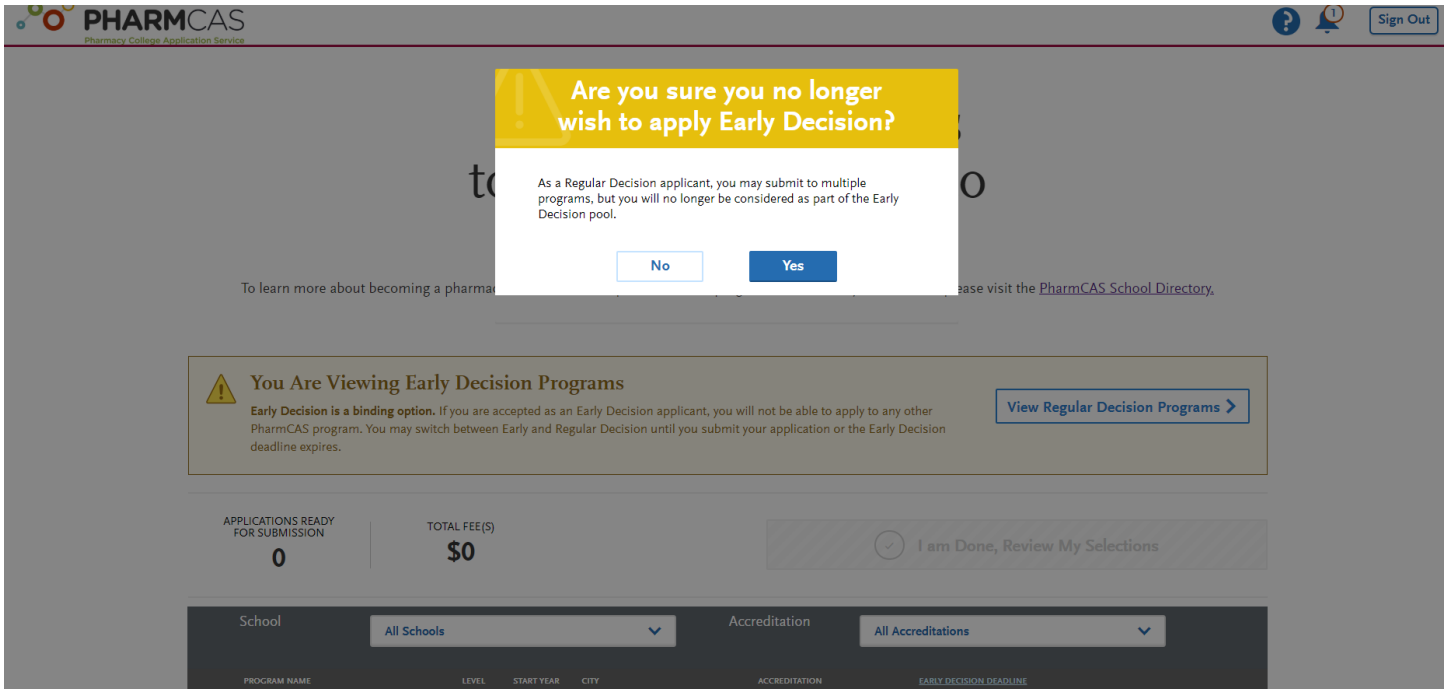
C. The Early Decision page will have an informative banner that stretches across the top. A “View Regular Decision Programs” button will be embedded in the Banner allowing applicants to toggle back to the Regular Decision screen.



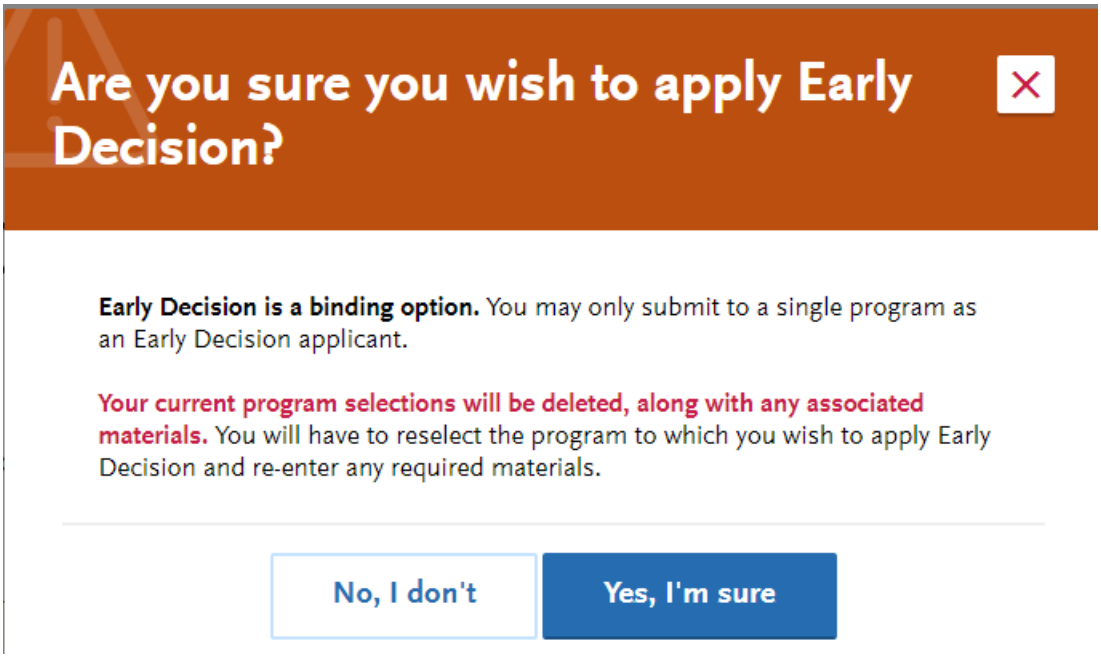
D. If an applicant toggles between the Early Decision and Regular Decision buttons they will be prompted with a message informing them they are leaving one section and entering another.

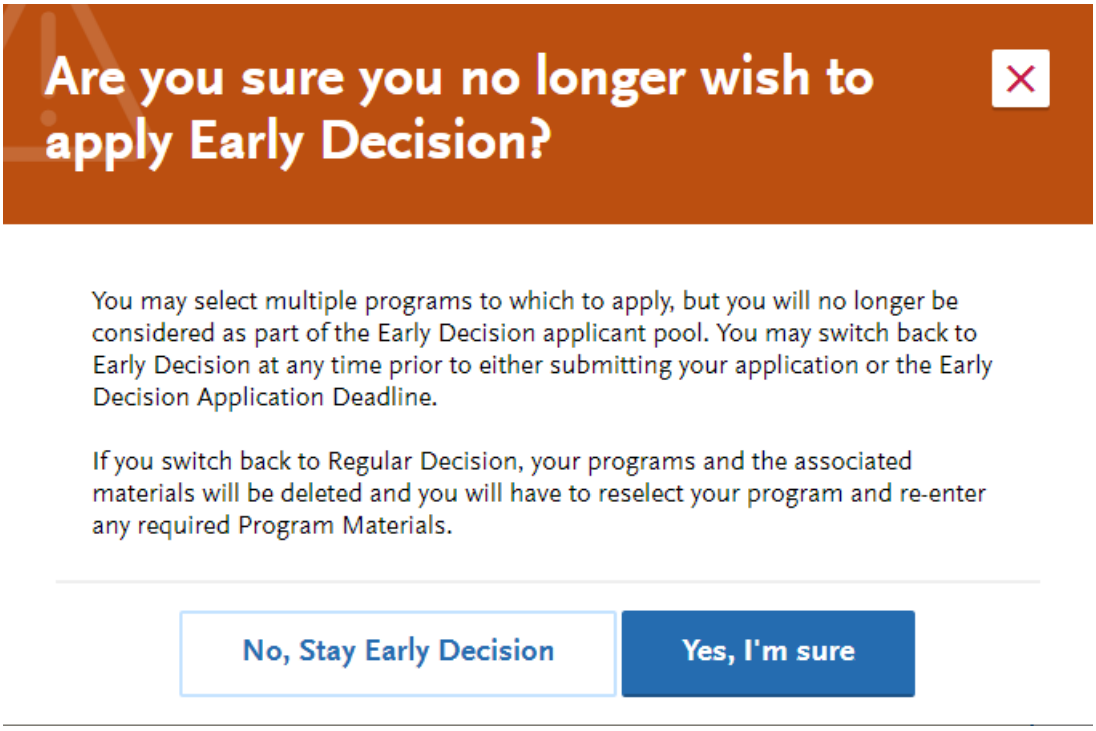
   i. The Applicant will only see this message if they have **not** selected a program for either Regular Decision or Early Decision





E. Applicants will continue to receive a warning when they decide to switch from an already-selected Early Decision or Regular Decision program. Each modal listed below will appear based on which program they are replacing at that given time





Admission Decisions for Early Decision Candidates

Pharm.D. programs are required to report admission decisions to PharmCAS. Programs must enter decision codes for Early Decision candidates into WebAdMIT by no later than 11:59 pm EDT on October 19, 2018. If an early decision admission code is not indicated by October 19, the applicant will automatically be returned to your regular applicant pool and will then allowed to apply to additional programs. **Coding applicants in decision code "Return Early Decision to Regular Pool" will trigger the release of those applicants back to the regular applicant pool on a nightly basis prior to October 19.**

The following decision codes will **lock** Early Decisions applicants and prevent them from being released to the regular applicant pool and applying elsewhere.

- Offer Accepted
- Offer Made
- Declined Offer
- Deferred
- Matriculated

The following decision codes will **release** Early Decisions applicants and allow them to apply to other programs as part of the regular applicant pool.

- None
- Denied
- Wait List
- Received/Under Review
- Incomplete/Application Not Reviewed
- Withdrew
- Withdrawn after Matriculation
- Rescinded
- Return Early Decision to Regular Pool **(Releases prior to October 19)**