

SECTION ELEVEN

Wait-listed or Accepted?

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Wait-listed?



What do I do if I am put on the Wait-list?

- Do not panic, you were wait-listed, not turned away!
- The Wait-list is the college's enrollment cushion or safety net. You should remain on the wait-list only if you are truly still interested in attending that college.
- Whether a college will utilize its wait-list is unpredictable from year to year. Some colleges go to the wait list every year. Other colleges rarely go to their waitlist.

Get a better sense of your chance of admission:

- Contact the college admissions office immediately if you want to remain on their wait-list.
- Find out if the admissions office ranks the wait-list or has a priority list.
- Write a letter to the admissions office. Admissions officers are interested in any NEW information not already listed on your original application. For example, new awards or letter of recommendation.
- Remain on the wait-list only if you are truly still interested in attending that college.
- Continue to study hard, final semester grades may be a reevaluation factor.
- If you are wait-listed at more than one college, it is best practice to only remain active on one wait list. (With the exception of the University of California where special rules apply)

Reconsider the colleges that accepted you:

- If you can picture yourself at one of your second choices and be happy, send in your deposit and plan to attend that school. You'll be relieved after a decision has been made.

Wait-list decisions are not made until after May 1st decision deadline. You should prepare to attend another school where you have been accepted by sending in the necessary paperwork and deposit. If you are accepted off the wait-list, you will have to forfeit your deposit at the first school and send a deposit to the second school.

The Etiquette of Accepting an Offer of Admission



You have now applied and received admissions decisions from the colleges to which you have applied. All colleges must inform students of their admissions decisions by mid-April. After you have received all of your admissions decisions, as well as offers of financial aid, it is time to make a final decision. Students should consider their priorities, options and choose the college that best matches what you are looking for in a school. Once you make your decision, you should complete the following steps of informing the colleges of your decision.

1. After you have made your choice, you need to inform the college of your choice that you are accepting their offer. This response needs to be mailed by May 1st, which is the universal reply deadline. A deposit may also be required to secure your place. Also check regarding deposits required for housing.
2. It is unethical for a student to accept admission to more than one institution. This is called “double depositing” and it is grounds for an institution to rescind a student’s admission.
3. Next you need to inform all the other college to which you have been accepted that you have decided to go elsewhere. Once again, this needs to be completed by May 1st.
4. It is important that you inform colleges and universities that you will not be attending their institutions. This will allow colleges to offer the place they were holding for you to a student on their waitlist.
5. Students should only remain on a waitlist if they are truly interested in attending that college. You should not remain on the wait list just to see if you will be admitted.