Frequently Asked Questions About the Waitlist

What is the waitlist for?
Making admissions decisions is not an exact science. We know from experience approximately how many offers we should make to fill our entering class. However, over the course of the admissions cycle, acceptances in the entering class fluctuate as admitted students solidify their plans for the upcoming academic year. To the extent that any seats become available in the entering class, we will review the waitlist to fill seat vacancies.

I applied Early Decision and was waitlisted. What does that mean?
Some Early Decision applicants who are not admitted during the Early Decision cycle may be re-evaluated during the Regular Decision cycle. If an applicant is waitlisted for further review and reconsidered during the Regular Decision cycle, the admission will no longer be binding upon the applicant.

When can I expect to hear something?
We ask admitted applicants to make a confirmation deposit in the spring if they wish to accept our offer of admission. We will begin to review waitlist applicant files once seats in the entering class become available.

Because the availability of seats in the entering class fluctuates throughout the summer, we keep our waitlist open until the first day of classes in the fall. In early May, those students still on our waitlist will receive an email from the Admissions Office (the “Waitlist Confirmation Email”) inviting them to confirm their intention to remain on our waitlist throughout the summer. Please note, in order to remain on the waitlist, you must confirm your intention to stay on the waitlist by the deadline reflected in the Waitlist Confirmation Email. If you do not confirm prior to the deadline reflected in the Waitlist Confirmation Email, you will be automatically removed from our waitlist.

Where am I on the waitlist?
The waitlist is not ranked. The Admissions Committee will consider all candidates on the waitlist if seats are available, using the same criteria as in the initial admissions decision.

Do I still need to check my Online Status Checker after I have been put on the waitlist?
The online status checker is a useful tool even after you have been placed on our waitlist. To check that we have received your confirmation to remain on the waitlist you can check your online status checker to confirm that your “Current Status” remains “Waitlist”. If for any reason your “Current Status” has changed from “Waitlist” to “Withdrawn” at any time and
you did not inform our office that you wanted to be removed from the waitlist, please contact our office as soon as possible to discuss. The reason for the change may be the result of an applicant not confirming their intention to remain on our waitlist prior to the deadline reflected in the Waitlist Confirmation Email. So, be sure to check your Online Status Checker periodically during the admissions cycle to confirm your “Current Status”.

**How many candidates are on the waitlist?**
The number will vary throughout the summer. Candidates will drop off the waitlist during the summer as they begin to make commitments to other schools, and we will periodically release candidates from the waitlist if it appears unlikely we will be able to offer them admission.

**Do deposited students ever decline their offer of admissions later in the summer?**
We retain our waitlist throughout the summer in the event that some of those who have made deposits decide not to attend. Applicants may be waiting to visit other law schools, or for law schools to make financial aid awards before making a final decision. Therefore, we do see movement in the entering class throughout the summer as deposited students make their final decisions on which law school to attend.

**If I receive an offer of admission, how long will I have to decide?**
Not long! Other wait-listed candidates are anxious for a decision. We will call or e-mail you if we have a space available, and you will be asked to make a commitment within a short time frame. You should be prepared to make a decision fairly quickly if a space opens up for you. That is why it is critically important that you keep us up to date on your current address, e-mail, and phone number over the summer.

**What’s the latest I could be offered admission?**
We keep our waitlist open until the first day of classes in the fall and have offered admission to waitlist candidates shortly before 1L Orientation is scheduled to begin.

**How will waitlist admission affect my chances of receiving financial aid or finding a place to live?**
Student eligibility for financial aid in the form of loans are not affected by their admission off the waitlist. However, depending on the timing of admission off the waitlist, receipt of funds may be delayed while your financial aid application is being processed.

Students admitted off the waitlist are considered for scholarships in the same manner as those initially admitted to the Law School. Waitlist candidates offered admission can expect to be considered for scholarships as long as funds remain available.

Finding and securing housing for students admitted off the waitlist has not proven to be a problem due to the Law School being located in a major metropolitan city. Students currently on the waitlist should take advantage of the resources available on our [housing website](#) when beginning their search for housing.
If I am offered admission from the waitlist, may I defer my enrollment?
Deferral requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. However, waitlisted students should be upfront about their intentions of starting law school in the upcoming academic year or deferring to another academic year when contacted by the admissions office about seat availability for the upcoming year.

What are we looking for in a waitlist applicant?
Just as in the initial admissions process, we will be evaluating a variety of factors to try to select the best applicants. Among many things, we assess the strength of your undergraduate or graduate academic record, trends in your grades, the rigor of the curriculum you selected, your score(s) on the Law School Admission Test, your letters of recommendation, community service, extracurricular activities, work experience during school or after graduation, and any other information you provided in your personal statement or attachments to your application. We also try to assess institutional “fit.” So if there are programs or attributes of the UChicago Law community that you believe particularly suit you, you may wish to submit an additional addendum to your application, as indicated in the decision letter you received from the Admissions Office.

How many do you usually accept?
There really is no typical number accepted off the waitlist.

Is there anything I can do to enhance my chances?
Grades from the spring semester can be a good way to demonstrate a continued trend in your academic performance. Please submit your spring grades through the Law School Credential Assembly Service (CAS), which will update your CAS Report.

In addition, you may submit an additional essay discussing the reasons why you are interested in studying at UChicago Law and how our curriculum and academic environment will help you achieve your personal and professional goals. Please refer to the decision letter you received from the Admissions Office for more information on how to submit the additional essay for consideration by the Admissions Committee.

What about an interview?
While we understand that many applicants would like the opportunity to interview, our interviews are currently by invitation only. We will not be able to accommodate requests for interviews and ask that you not call or write to request an interview.

Hang in there! We know that being on the waitlist is frustrating, and we will let you know as quickly as possible if we can offer you a place in the entering class.