

# Frequently asked questions about the admission wait list

## **What is a wait list?**

Enrolling a freshman class each year at a selective college involves what might well be called “precision guesswork.” From the almost 4,000 applications Wheaton receives, we must assess the admissibility of each candidate and then try to predict what percentage of admitted students actually will choose Wheaton (known as the *yield*), in order to end up with 420 new students in the fall. Since most students are applying to Wheaton and a number of other colleges, and because the yield varies each year, finding the precise number to admit is always extremely difficult. In years when our projections fall short of 420 by May 1, the wait list provides another opportunity to achieve our enrollment goals and also offers a second chance at admission for well-qualified students who were very close, but whom we were unable to admit during the initial review process.

## **How large is the wait list?**

The number of students placed on the wait list is largely consistent year to year and is a function of several factors, including: the overall composition of the applicant pool, the targeted size of the incoming class, and the availability of financial aid. Of all the wait list offers we make, fewer than 200 are expected to remain active.

## **Do you rank the wait list?**

We do not rank candidates on the wait list. If we find that we are able to make additional offers of admission for either fall or spring, we review again the entire list of active candidates and make offers to those students who are the strongest overall at that point and who have expressed sincere intent to enroll. The number of offers will depend, of course, on the space available.

## **How do you decide which students to admit from the wait list?**

In the event that we are able to extend admission offers for either fall or spring, our decisions will be made based on a desire to enroll a well-rounded group of academically talented students who will enhance the Wheaton community. Typically, we are in a better position to make offers to wait-listed students for spring rather than fall admission.

## **What are my chances of being offered a place from the wait list?**

The chances of being admitted from the wait list for either fall or spring are determined largely by three factors: first, how close we come to the target class size (from original offers) by May 1; second, clearly stated enthusiasm to attend Wheaton; and third, need for financial assistance. Since we don't know how many (if any) additional offers we will be able to make, it is not possible to assess any student's chances until after May 1. The number of admission offers made to students on the wait list in a given year can range anywhere from none to as many as 50.

## **I really want to attend Wheaton. What should I do now?**

You should return the card enclosed with your letter as soon as possible, which will place you on the active wait list for fall and spring enrollment. If Wheaton has become your first choice, you also may choose to submit a short statement indicating the reasons for your strong interest. Then, in the event that we are able to extend any additional offers after May 1, we will know that you are still interested.

## **If I am offered admission from the wait list, may I defer my admission for a semester or a year?**

Admission offers to wait-listed students are good *only* for the semester in which they are offered. Admitted students who wish to delay their entrance beyond the term in which they were admitted must re-apply for admission.

## **When will I know once and for all?**

We make every attempt to resolve all wait list matters by July 1. When a space becomes available, we call students to confirm that their interest in Wheaton is still strong, and then send a letter immediately to confirm the admission offer.

## **I have decided to attend another college; what should I do?**

Please let us know! This may help us to offer a space to someone who is still interested in attending Wheaton. We also would appreciate knowing where you decided to enroll.

## Wait List Admission Reply

**Office of Admission   Wheaton College   Norton, Massachusetts 02766**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ High School State \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

I would like to be considered for admission if you are able to offer me a place in the  
 Fall class    Spring class

I no longer wish to be considered for admission.

I have decided to attend \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of college