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Wait-Listed at the University of California?

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be made by the end of March for freshman applicants and the end of April for transfers.

- Once students are offered a spot on a waitlist, they must opt in or lose this opportunity. Instructions for opting in will be included with the waitlist notification.

- Even if students accept a waitlist offer (or several), students should submit a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) by the stated deadline to a UC campus (or other college or university to which they have been accepted). If they later accept an offer of admission from a campus where they have been wait-listed, they will forfeit their deposit at the first campus.

- Preliminary financial aid awards will be sent at the time students are notified of waitlist offers. Students who submit their SIR by the deadline will be considered on time for housing and orientation scheduling purposes.

- Wait-listed freshman applicants will be notified of their status no later than June 1; wait-listed transfer applicants will be notified by July 1st.

Key difference in waitlist status between UC and private colleges

There are key differences between being placed on the waitlist at a private college versus the UC. Gael Casner, founder of College Find in Marin County, sums it up well: "The main difference has to do with the amount of control you have over the process. At a private college, you can continue to add important information to your application, write or call to show your continued interest and generally assure the college that it is your first choice school." If you are waitlisted at the UC, you can do little but wait, and that can be unnerving for students and their families.

Consider Your Options

Colleges build waiting lists to ensure that they have full freshman classes. Since not all accepted students will choose to enroll, these lists allow colleges to reach out to students they would like to accept but do not have the space to enroll. This system is hard on students because the school is not sending a clear message regarding an offer of admission. Some students describe it as being "in a state of limbo." While students and their parents are accustomed to wait-listing at private schools, most are surprised to learn that the University of California also uses waitlists.

The waitlist as an enrollment strategy

UC currently enrolls more than 11,500 students for whom it receives no state funding. A waitlist is an enrollment management tool that helps campuses reach their enrollment targets and budget objectives. This is especially important during tough economic times when the university is dealing with recent and planned state budget cuts. In the fall 2010 admissions cycle, the UC used waitlists at many campuses for the first time and announced plans to do so again in fall 2011. All campuses, except Los Angeles and Merced, plan to use waitlists for their freshman applicant pools. Davis and San Diego also have a transfer waitlist, and Irvine and Santa Cruz are considering the option for transfers.

How many students are accepted from the waitlist?

This enrollment strategy was first used in fall 2010, so we only have access to those numbers. Just two campuses-UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara-admitted significant numbers of students from their waitlists. Their final freshman classes included more than 40% of students admitted off the waitlist.

What our students need to know

- Students may receive waitlist offers from more than one campus. Students may accept as many offers as they wish. Waitlist offers will

It is important to focus on the schools that accepted you without reservation. If you have received admission offers from one or more UC campuses, out-of-state public and/or private colleges consider these opportunities carefully-this time from the fresh perspective of an admitted applicant. These colleges want you and indicated their interest with firm offers of admission. Ultimately, being a UC wait-listed applicant may not prove as satisfying to you as accepting an offer of admission from a college that was attractive enough to make it to your college list in the first place. Knowing what college you will be attending in the fall will allow you the freedom to move forward, make definitive college plans and enjoy the remainder of your senior year.

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