UC Waitlist Information

When are waitlist offers announced? When will students hear a decision?

Freshman applicants will receive waitlist offers by the end of March, with an opt-in deadline of April. Students will be notified of their final status by the end of June.

Transfer applicants will receive waitlist offers by the end of April, with an opt-in deadline of May. Students will be notified by the end of July.

For students who were offered and accepted a space on a waitlist at one of the campuses, can they do anything to increase their chances of selection? Are students ranked?

Whether or not a campus will offer admission to students on a waitlist depends on a number of factors, including the number of students initially offered admission who accept a space by May 1 (June 1 for transfers), and campus and department enrollment goals. There is nothing that a student should or can do other than opt-in to the waitlist by the stated deadline. Any additional information submitted that was not requested by the campus will not be considered.

The process for selecting students from the waitlist varies at each campus. A campus might have enrollment goals for a particular major, leading to the admission of students who applied to that program, but not others. Or a campus might admit broadly.

Can a student accept multiple waitlist offers?

Yes.

Can students who have been admitted at one campus and waitlisted at another accept both offers?

Yes. In fact, we highly recommend students who have been admitted to either a UC campus or another college or university accept that offer since a waitlist offer is not a guarantee of admission later.

How many students are usually admitted from the waitlists?

The number of students who are ultimately admitted varies from year to year, campus to campus. There is no way to tell how many students, if any, will ultimately be offered admission for any particular year.

Can a student who was waitlisted appeal their admission decision?

For freshman students:
Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles and San Diego will only allow appeals from students who were denied admission. Applicants offered a waitlist space may not appeal.

Irvine and Riverside will allow waitlisted applicants to appeal only if they opt-in to the waitlist. If a student's appeal is denied, they may remain on the waitlist.

Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz will review all appeals, whether an applicant is on the waitlist or not.

Merced is not using a waitlist.

For transfer students:
Those on the waitlist may not appeal their admission decision.

Merced, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz are not using a waitlist for transfer admission.

Can a student who was denied admission appeal to be on the waitlist?

Applicants may not appeal to be on the waitlist.

If a student did not receive an offer of admission from any campus to which they applied, but was waitlisted by a campus, will they receive an offer from UC Merced?

Yes, this is true for freshman and transfer students, provided that the student meets all of the criteria for referral. Freshman criteria include meeting the statewide or local guarantee.

When a student is admitted off the waitlist, will the student still be guaranteed housing and receive a financial aid offer at time of admission?

Most campuses will guarantee housing for students who are admitted from their waitlist, provided students submit their SIR and housing application by the deadlines stated in the offer of admission. In all cases, campuses work with incoming students for access to on- or off-campus housing.

All campuses provide financial aid offers at time of or shortly after the waitlist admission decision is released, provided students submitted their FAFSA and any other financial aid documents by the March 2 deadline.

If a student is admitted from a campus waitlist after submitting a statement of intent to register (SIR) and deposit to another campus, can the initial deposit be refunded or transferred?

No, the SIR deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.