



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
Undergraduate Admissions
37 Mather Drive
Amherst, MA 01003-9291

FRESHMAN WAITLIST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FALL 2009

My decision letter states that I've been offered the waitlist. Why?

For the Fall 2009 freshman class, we received 30,000 applications for a class of approximately 4,100. In such a competitive environment, and with a limited number of freshman spaces, we are not able to admit all the students who presented strong academic credentials.

Is being placed on the waitlist the same as being denied?

No. "Denied" means that the university has decided not to admit a student. Students on the fall waitlist are neither admitted nor denied.

What are the waitlist options?

There are four waitlist options, all of which are explained in more detail on the waitlist form. You may choose one of the following:

1. I would like to join the waitlist for Fall 2009 admission.
2. I would like to be admitted to UMass Amherst for spring semester (begins January 2010).
3. I am interested in both options (fall waitlist and spring admission)
4. I am not interested in either option.

NOTE: Please be sure to return your waitlist form to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by the **June 1st deadline** in the business reply envelope provided.

How large is the waitlist? How many waitlisted students were selected for fall admission in recent years?

We are unable to say how large the Fall 2009 waitlist will be since we don't know how many students will accept the waitlist offer. Every year is different in terms of how many are selected for fall admission.

What number or ranking am I on the waitlist?

The waitlist is not in numeric order and waitlisted applicants are not ranked.

UMass Amherst is my first choice college. Does that help my chances of being selected from the waitlist?

While we are delighted that UMass Amherst is your first choice, this will not influence the decision. The best way to enhance your chances is to return the completed waitlist form as quickly as possible.

Which students will be selected first from the waitlist?

The university will decide if we will go to the waitlist once we have determined the number of enrollment fees received from already-admitted students. Students selected first from the waitlist will be those who return the required form by the June 1st deadline and who select either Option 1 (join the waitlist for fall only) or Option 3 (interested in both fall and spring admission).

Freshman Waitlist - Frequently Asked Questions - Fall 2009 (cont.)

Is there any way to improve my chance of being selected for fall admission?

The best way to enhance your likelihood of being selected is to return the completed form as quickly as possible. Choose either Option 1 or Option 3 to indicate your interest in joining the fall waitlist.

You may wish to check with your guidance counselor to ensure that we have your most recent grades and standardized test scores. Please do not send academic information that we received previously. In addition, you do not need to send additional non-academic information (recommendations, etc.). Sending emails or letters, visiting our office, asking others to contact us on your behalf, or offering to pay the enrollment fee immediately will not strengthen your chances.

Realistically, what are my chances of being selected from the waitlist for fall admission?

The majority of students on the waitlist are not offered fall admission. However, all waitlisted students are offered admission for the spring semester.

When and how will the university start selecting students from the waitlist?

If we decide to admit students from the waitlist, we will begin making contact after May 1. Students will be called or emailed at the telephone number and/or email address listed on the admissions application. If the student indicates their interest in being admitted, we will send an admit package and ask them to make a commitment within two weeks. If they decide not to accept our offer of fall admission, we ask to be notified promptly so the spot can be offered to another student.

Should I accept another school's offer of admission? And isn't May 1st the national deadline for students to notify colleges and universities that they will be enrolling for fall?

Yes, you should consider alternative college plans since there is no guarantee that we will be able to offer admission from the waitlist. That is why we encourage students who have been waitlisted, and who have been accepted to another college or university, to confirm their place by May 1st. This will ensure that you have a spot in college for the coming fall.

If the university goes to the waitlist, will we be notified when the fall class is closed and no more students will be selected?

Yes. This notification will be mailed in the summer.

If I'm selected from the waitlist and decide to enroll for the fall, and I've paid an enrollment fee at another college or university, will the other institution refund my fee?

It is unlikely that you will recover the cost of your enrollment fee, as these are typically non-refundable. Colleges and universities consider the enrollment fee proof of your intention to enroll, and they have specific policies about refunds. Please contact the particular institution directly to see if your enrollment fee, or any part of it, is refundable.

THE SPRING SEMESTER ENROLLMENT OPTION

I've heard that if I'm waitlisted I am automatically offered spring admission (for the semester that begins in January). Is that true?

Yes! All waitlisted students are guaranteed a spot in the spring semester, if they wish to enroll, as long as they graduate from high school and follow the appropriate procedures within the specified timelines. Here is the schedule for this option:

- June 1: return the completed waitlist form to the Admissions Office. Be sure to indicate either Option 2 (interested in spring enrollment) or Option 3 (interested in both fall admission and spring enrollment).
- Mid-October: We will mail you a spring-term admit letter and enrollment form.
- November 1: Deadline for confirming your spring enrollment by returning the enrollment form and paying the \$400 enrollment fee.

Freshman Waitlist - Frequently Asked Questions - Fall 2009 (cont.)

- Mid-November: You will receive additional enrollment information.

You are responsible for ensuring that we receive an official copy of your final high school transcript (with graduation notation) as well as the official transcript for any college work you do in the fall.

Please note that admission to the spring semester is a **general** offer of admission only. This means that waitlisted students admitted for spring will not be admitted to a selective major.

What are the “selective” majors?

Students who were waitlisted and then admitted for the spring semester will not be admitted to any of the following selective majors:

- Sport Management
- Majors within the Isenberg School of Management (ISOM, or business majors)
(Exception: students who indicated a major of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) will be admitted to that major).
- Majors within the College of Engineering
- Nursing
- Economics
- Journalism
- Communication.

Will I have the option of applying for an internal transfer to a selective major once I am enrolled as a student at UMass Amherst?

Except for Nursing, there are opportunities to join the selective majors and programs listed above after enrollment. Please check the department’s or college’s Web site for more information on requirements for internal transfers to these programs.

If I indicated that I may be interested in the spring semester, is that a commitment to attend?

No. Checking one of the options related to the spring semester simply advises Admissions that you may be interested in attending UMass Amherst for the spring term. You will be admitted for the spring semester in October and will have until November 1st to make your final decision regarding enrollment at UMass Amherst.

If I choose Option 3 – that I am interested both in joining the waitlist for fall and the spring semester option – will that hurt my chances of being selected from the waitlist for fall, should a spot become available?

No.

If I’m admitted for the spring semester at UMass Amherst, may I enroll somewhere else for the fall semester?

Yes. You may enroll at another college or university during the fall semester before joining UMass Amherst in the spring. See more information below.

Am I required to enroll at another college or university for the fall semester in order to be eligible for spring admission at UMass Amherst?

No. While most students enroll elsewhere in the fall, it is not required.

Freshman Waitlist - Frequently Asked Questions - Fall 2009 (cont.)

What courses should I take during the fall semester?

All students interested in joining UMass Amherst for the spring semester and who will be attending another institution in the fall should:

- Take the college's or university's writing placement test. It is very important that you enroll in the suggested freshman English composition or writing course. Why? UMass Amherst has a freshman writing requirement, and very few, if any, spots will be available in spring semester composition / writing classes at UMass Amherst.
- Consult with your academic advisor at the college or university where you will be attending. Ask about courses typically taken by first-year students in your major. Such courses may include foreign languages, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. Some courses may also fulfill some of your UMass Amherst general education requirements.
- Check the UMass Amherst Web site (www.umass.edu) for guidance. Access the "Academics," "Future Students," and "Undergraduate Majors, Minors, and Certificates" links to see course requirements and prerequisites for those in your field of study.
- If your intended major includes math courses, take the college's or university's math placement test and enroll in the suggested math course.

How will I find out if my fall courses transferred to UMass Amherst?

Courses taken at other institutions will be evaluated for transfer credit in accordance with established policies. After students register for their fall courses elsewhere, they may call the Admission Office and ask to speak with a transfer counselor about the transferability of their courses. Students need to submit an official college transcript to UMass Amherst as soon as it becomes available. It will be helpful to your UMass Amherst academic advisor if you bring a copy of your fall class schedule or an unofficial copy of your transcript to your scheduled New Student Orientation session.

Will I attend an orientation session before the spring semester begins?

Yes. More information about New Student Orientation (NSO) dates and processes, including information about on-campus housing, will be sent in the November mailing.

Will other freshmen be starting in the spring?

Yes. Last year approximately 200 first-year students began their UMass Amherst careers in the spring semester, so you would not be alone.

Is housing guaranteed if I enroll at UMass Amherst for the spring semester?

Yes. Housing is guaranteed for students who request on-campus housing and who pay the enrollment fee by the designated deadline.

What about financial aid for students who enroll in the spring?

We encourage students to file the FAFSA form and to list UMass Amherst as a recipient of FAFSA information. For further information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 413-545-0801 or visit the Financial Aid Web site at www.umass.edu/umfa.

I received the John and Abigail Adams and/or the Stanley Z. Koplik Scholarship. Can that be applied to the spring semester at UMass Amherst?

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts offers a number of tuition waivers to qualified state residents. These must be used in the semester immediately following graduation from high school. Therefore waitlisted students who will be joining UMass Amherst for the spring semester must first enroll in an eligible state college or university for the previous fall semester in order to retain their tuition waiver eligibility.

Freshman Waitlist - Frequently Asked Questions - Fall 2009 (cont.)

- For further information about the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, please contact the Massachusetts Board of Education at 781-338-3678 or visit the Web site at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/adams.html>
- For further information about the Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education at 781-338-6252 or visit the Web site at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu/default.asp?page=koplikWaiver>

If I enroll in another college or university for the fall semester and decide to remain there for the full year (or longer), may I defer my spring UMass Amherst acceptance to a later semester?

No. As a waitlisted student you may complete up to one semester's worth of credit at another institution during the fall semester. If you complete more than a semester's worth of credit you would need to reapply to UMass Amherst for admission as a transfer student, even though you may still be in your first year of college.

If you are considering the possibility of deferring your spring admission to UMass Amherst for another reason, please access the following link on the UMass Amherst Web site for information, procedures, and policies: www.umass.edu/admissions/uploads/basicContentWidget/13848/deferralpolicyapp.pdf.

Do you have any other advice for me?

Carefully and realistically consider all of the options available to you at this time. As mentioned previously, if you have been accepted at another school then we recommend you secure your spot there. This way, you will not find yourself without a college to attend in the fall.