

FIRST-YEAR WAITLIST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FALL & SPRING

Why was I waitlisted?

For the fall first-year class, we received more than 40,000 applications for a class of approximately 5,350. In such a competitive environment, and with a limited number of first-year 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 waitlist are neither admitted nor denied, and, depending on our class needs, some may be offered admission at a later date.

What are my waitlist options?

There are four waitlist options that you may choose:

Fall option: If you are only interested in entering UMass Amherst in the fall semester (September)

Spring option: if you are only interested in entering UMass Amherst in the spring semester (January)

Both (fall or spring): if you are interested in entering UMass Amherst in either the fall or spring semester

Withdraw: If you are not interested in remaining on the waitlist

Do these options apply to all majors?

Yes. However, while it's possible that students who are waitlisted for the following selective majors may ultimately be admitted, competition remains particularly significant:

- Bachelors of Business Administration majors within the Isenberg School of Management
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Nursing (Applicants to the Nursing program receive a waitlist notification specific to that major.)

NOTE: Please be sure to submit the waitlist response form, accessible through your applicant portal, by the **May 15 deadline**.

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.

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

Every year is different in terms of how many students are placed on the waitlist and how many students are selected for admission in either semester. For that reason, and because the circumstances are unpredictable, we do not publish waitlist numbers.

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 reply to the waitlist response form as quickly as possible. You can access the response form in your applicant portal.

Which students will be selected first from the waitlist?

The university will decide if it will draw from the waitlist after mid-May, once it is determined how many enrollment deposits have been paid. Students selected first from the waitlist will be those who reply to the waitlist response form by the May 15th deadline and who select either **Fall** (join the waitlist for only the fall semester) or **Both** (interested in both fall and spring semesters).

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 reply to the waitlist response form as quickly as possible. Choose either **Fall** or **Both** to indicate your interest in joining the waitlist.

Does UMass Amherst want me to send anything else to Admissions?

You may wish to check with your school 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 deposit 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, waitlisted students may be considered for the spring semester, provided that:

- 1) The waitlist response form is returned by **May 15th** and you selected **Spring** or **Both**.
- 2) Your grades and courses on the final high school transcript with graduation date are consistent with the academic record with which you applied.

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

If we decide to admit students from the waitlist, Admissions will contact applicants after mid-May. Students will be contacted at the telephone number and/or email address listed on their application. For students who indicate interest in being admitted, we will provide them with an admissions decision and ask them to make a commitment within two weeks. If the student decides 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 at that other institution by May 1st.

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

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

THE SPRING SEMESTER OPTION

If I'm waitlisted, will I be offered spring admission (the semester that begins in January)?

At this time we cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all students who indicate an interest in attending UMass Amherst in January. Once we have closed the fall class, we will contact all students who have expressed interest in the spring option and direct their next steps.

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. If your grades and courses on the final high school transcript with graduation date are consistent with the academic record with which you applied, you will be considered for the spring semester. There are no disciplinary or criminal issues that might keep you from being admitted.

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

No.

If I'm interested in the spring semester at UMass Amherst, may I enroll at another college, where I was admitted, for the fall semester?

Yes. You may enroll at another college or university during the fall semester before joining UMass Amherst in the spring. You are also welcome to explore online courses at UMass Amherst for the fall.

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

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

What courses should I take at the other college or university 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 writing placement test at the college or university. It is very important that you enroll in the suggested freshman English composition or writing course. UMass Amherst has a first-year writing requirement.
- 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.
- Take the math placement test and enroll in the suggested math course at the college or university.

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

Courses taken at other institutions will be evaluated after you enroll at UMass Amherst for transfer credit in accordance with established policies. 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 New Student Orientation session in January.

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

Yes. More information about New Student Orientation dates and processes, including information about on-campus housing, will be provided in November.

Will other freshmen be starting in the spring?

Yes. Typically, more than 100 first-year students begin their UMass Amherst careers in the spring semester, so you would not be alone.

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

Yes. Housing is provided for first-year students who request on-campus housing and who pay the enrollment deposit 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](http://www.umass.edu/umfa) website 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?

Yes. You can apply these awards to the spring semester, provided you have filed a FAFSA with our school code (002221), submitted your Koplik certificate or Adams award letter to the Financial Aid Office, and you meet other requirements published on the [Massachusetts OSFA website](http://www.mass.edu/osfa/home/home.asp). (<https://www.mass.edu/osfa/home/home.asp>) The amount of the award per term is \$857.00.

For further information about the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, please contact the Massachusetts Board of Education at 781-338-3678 or [visit the website](http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/adams.html) at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/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 website](http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/koplik.asp) at <http://www.mass.edu/osfa/programs/koplik.asp>.

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 apply to UMass Amherst for admission as a transfer student.

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.