

**FIRST-YEAR WAITLIST**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FALL & SPRING**

**Why was I waitlisted?**

For the fall first-year class, we received over 42,000 applications for a class of approximately 5,200. 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 only: If you are only interested in being considered for the fall entering class.

Spring option only: Some of our students prefer not to be considered for the fall, but want to be considered for UMass Amherst entry beginning in the spring semester. If this is for you, please select this option.

Both (fall or spring): As it states, selecting this option will put you in the pool of waitlist students who will be considered for either the fall or the spring semesters.

Withdraw: If you are not interested in joining the waitlist, please select this option.

**NOTE:** Please be sure to reply to the waitlist response form by the **May 15 deadline**.

**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. Every year is unique in how many students may be 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 reply to the waitlist response 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 after mid-May, once we have determined the number of enrollment fees received from admitted students. 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 fall only) or **Both** (interested in both fall and spring).

**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 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 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, 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.
- 3) There are no additional disciplinary/criminal issues.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Yes. This notification will be provided late 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 OPTION**

### **I've heard that if I'm waitlisted I will be offered spring admission (for the semester that begins in January). Is that true?**

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 detail their next steps.

### **What are the "selective" majors?**

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

- Bachelors of Business Administration majors within the Isenberg School of Management.
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Nursing

### **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. If your grades and courses on the final high school transcript with graduation date are consistent with the academic record with which you applied, and there are no additional disciplinary/criminal issues, you will be considered for the spring semester.

### **If I choose Both – that I am interested in both joining the waitlist for 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.

### **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 (NSO) dates and processes, including information about on-campus housing, will be provided in November.

**Will other freshmen be starting in the spring?**

Yes. Some 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 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](http://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?**

Our understanding is that either scholarship can be used for the spring semester. 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.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.

If you are considering the possibility of deferring your spring admission to UMass Amherst for another reason, please access the “Deferral of Freshman Admission Policy” link on the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the Admitted page: <http://www.umass.edu/admissions/admitted/admitted-student-faq>.

**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.