

Department Waitlist Practices
Fall 2025 Semester
Last revised: April 10, 2025

Dear students and academic advisers: See below for how departments generally address registration waitlists.

Anthropology and Sociology

Each section of ANTH-100 and SOC-100 is capped at twenty-five. We've allocated seats as follows: four for seniors, four for juniors, five for sophomores, and twelve for first-years. The seats allocated to each graduating class will open up when it's time for members of that class to register.

Art and Art History

In 100 level Art and Art History courses, 2-4 seats are allocated for each class year. After that, priority will be given to Art and Art History majors by year, beginning with seniors. Students should contact the instructors if they are hoping to get into a course from the waitlist. In stacked class offerings (e.g., 250/350), the instructor may be able to transfer seats between levels to accommodate waitlisted students.

Biology

1. BIO-201 and BIO-201L: All students who need this course for their major or minor will be moved from waitlists into sections that fit their schedules.
2. BIO/ENV or BIO/NEUR cross-listed courses: Courses taught by Biology faculty and cross-listed with Environmental Studies or Neuroscience will typically have 16 seats available. Most semesters courses will have 10 seats designated for BIO and 6 seats designated for ENV or NEUR.
3. Many 200 and 300 level BIO courses have seats reserved for sophomores. These seats will become available when the class of 2026 registers. Waitlisted students will not be admitted unless there is space after sophomore registration.

Business and Economics

The B&E department reserves two spaces in many of its upper-level courses for possible transfer students. If you find yourself first or second on the waitlist for any of these courses, the instructor has no way of knowing if you will get in until transfer students choose their courses, which sometimes happens up to the first day of spring courses. The relevant courses are: ACCT-140, ECON-101, ECON-102, ECON-201, ECON-202, ECON-231, ECON-263, and FIN-270.

Chemistry

In multi-section courses (CHEM-107, 108, 207, 208 and the associated laboratory sections), limits are set to distribute students across sections and ensure each group that registers has seats available in all sections. If a student is waitlisted for a multi-section course, we strongly recommend moving into a section that has open seats. A student may choose to remain on the waitlist, but waitlisted students will only be added if seats are available in a section at the end of the entire registration period. Laboratory sections are firmly capped at the stated limits. Students on a waitlist for a closed laboratory section will be moved into an open section at the end of the registration period. For single-section courses, we will do our best to accommodate all students who wish to enroll in the course.

East Asian Studies

1. Waitlisted students will be admitted until all seats are filled with preference given to majors and minors in East Asian Studies, and minors in Chinese and Japanese.
2. In courses cross-listed with Film Studies, waitlisted students in that minor will also be given preference.

Education

EDUC-100: Seats will not be available to rising seniors and juniors during their registration periods (students in these classes with a specific need for the course should reach out to the chair, John Spencer). Ten seats will become available for sophomores and twelve seats for incoming first-years. If possible, rising sophomores who hope to major in Educational Studies or pursue teaching certification should notify the chair of their plans and their interest in the course before their registration period starts. Juniors and seniors will be able to add the course if seats remain after first-years register.

English and Creative Writing

For all creative writing courses above the 100-level, courses are first-come, first-serve, with juniors and seniors having precedence over first- and second-year students. In ENCW-106, Introduction to Creative Writing, eight seats are reserved for first year students, leaving eight seats available for the sophomores, juniors, and seniors. After those nine seats are filled, students who elect this course are put on the wait list. If fewer than eight first-year students sign up for the course, students from the wait list are added to reach the class limit. ENGL-104W is limited to first and second year students, with seats saved for each class year.

Environment and Sustainability

Waitlisted students seeking entry to Environment and Sustainability courses will be added to course sections until all seats are filled and in the following order: (1) declared ENV majors; (2) declared ENV minors; (3) declared minors in interdisciplinary programs for which the course is a requirement; and (4) all other students in order of waitlist position. In 100-level ENVS courses (e.g., ENVS-100 and ENVS-140Q), seats are reserved for each class year, with a majority of seats reserved for the Class of 2027 and incoming first-year students (Class of 2028). Waitlisted students should not email individual instructors concerning waitlists, *unless they are a declared minor in an interdisciplinary program for which the course is a requirement*.

Film Studies

1. Waitlisted students will be brought in to film studies classes after film minors have been accommodated, as newly open seats allow. For cross-listed courses, majors in those departments may also be given preference.
2. For FS-101, Six seats are saved for sophomores and six for first-year students.

Health Sciences (HS)

Waitlisted students will be brought into the following courses once HEP majors have been accommodated, up to the maximum number of listed after the courses indicated below.

1. HEP-100 max. 25
2. HEP-202 max. 25
3. BIO-205 max. 30
4. HEP-210B max. 25
5. HEP-232W max. 20
6. HEP-245 max. 25
7. HEP-275 max. 25
8. HEP-334 max. 25
9. HEP-446 max. 20

History

Waitlisted students will be brought into history courses until all seats are filled in the following order: (1) declared history majors; (2) declared history minors; (3) declared majors and minors in interdisciplinary programs for which the course is a requirement; (4) all other students in order of waitlist position. In 100-level history courses, seats are reserved for each class year, with the majority of seats reserved for sophomores and first-year students. Courses that are cross-listed with GWSS have seats listed under both "HIST-000" and "GWSS-000." Waitlisted students should not email individual instructors concerning waitlists unless they are a declared major or minor in an interdisciplinary program for which the course is a requirement.

Math, Computer Science, and Statistics

The department recommends that waitlisted students find another section or wait until the course is offered in another semester.

Media and Communications Studies

The enrollment caps for MCS classes are as designated on the website/Grizzly Gateway. Some courses at the 300 level are cross-listed with courses in other departments (e.g., MCS-375 and FS-252). In these cases, the enrollment cap is split between the sections as listed in the two departments. Students should email the professor if they are on the waitlist for an MCS class and hope to get into the class. Priority is given to MCS majors.

Modern Languages

1. Waitlisted students in multi-section courses in Spanish and French will be moved to an open section after registration closes.
2. Waitlisted students for all other courses in modern languages will be admitted until all seats are filled in the following order: (1) majors in the target language, (2) minors in the target language, (2) all others.

Music

Five seats will open up for members of each registering class year. After a maximum cap is reached, faculty will consider making exceptions for Music Majors. Music ensembles and applied lessons are open to all without a course cap.

Neuroscience

- NEUR-100: This class is for first years and sophomores and 10 seats are reserved for each class. Seats will become available during the appropriate registration window.
- NEUR-150: Seats are reserved for first year students. Additional seats will become available during the appropriate registration window.
- NEUR-200: Students will be admitted off the waitlist at the instructor's discretion.
- NEUR-350: See Biology or Psychology policy, depending on cross-listing.

Politics

- Five seats are reserved in each section of POL-242 for first year students and will open up when it's time for first-years to register.

Psychology

1. Waitlisted students will be brought into psychology courses until all seats are filled in the following order: (1) declared psychology majors; (2) declared psychology minors; (3) declared minors in interdisciplinary programs for which the course is a requirement; (4) all other students in order of waitlist position. This order will also depend on whether the course is cross-listed (e.g. with neuroscience).
2. In multi-section courses, limits are set to distribute students across sections. If a student is waitlisted for a multi-section course, we strongly recommend moving into a section that has open seats. Psychology has cross-listed courses with Neuroscience, Environmental Studies, and GWSS/IDS. Students should check any cross-listed sections for open seats.
3. PSYC/NEUR cross-listed courses: Courses taught by Neuroscience faculty and cross-listed with Psychology will typically have 18 seats available. Most semesters, PSYC/NEUR courses will have 9 seats designated for PSYC and 9 seats designated for NEUR. Waitlisted students will be moved into the course once all students have completed the registration process.
4. PSYC 100 and PSYC 150: Seats are reserved for first year students. These seats will become available when first year students register.

Physics

1. PHYS-111Q/111L and PHYS-112Q/112L: Initial caps on lab sections are set to enable us to balance enrollments across sections. If there are no available seats, place yourself on the wait list of your preferred lab section. Unless the total enrollment in PHYS-111Q/112Q reaches the capacity of the auditorium (very unlikely), all students will be placed in the course.
2. PHYS-121Q/121L and PHYS-122Q/122L: Initial caps on lab sections are set to enable us to balance enrollments across sections. If there are no available seats, place yourself on the wait list of your preferred lab section. Based on past enrollments, we expect to be able to move all students into the course.

Theater and Dance

1. Waitlisted students will be allowed into all DANC, TD, and THEA courses once Theater and Dance majors, minors, and intended majors have been accommodated, up to the class capacity
2. DANC-100 will hold spots for each class year so that all students have an opportunity to register for limited seats at their assigned registration time. After that, waitlisted students will be allowed in once Dance majors, minors, and intended majors have been accommodated, up to the class capacity.
3. THEA-100 will hold six spots for first year students. After that waitlisted students will be allowed in once all Theater majors, minors, and intended majors have been accommodated, up to the class capacity.

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