Waitlisted or Waiting: What to Do?

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Cornell Career Services
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Understand the Context

• Rolling admissions
  – As the application cycle proceeds, the number of available acceptances decreases.

• Timing of interview invitations
  – Interview invitations are “winding down” this time of year.

• Impact of the “traffic rules”
The Traffic Rules: Upcoming Important Dates

- **March 15**
  - Schools must have accepted *at least* as many applicants as they have spots in the incoming class and reported the actions to AMCAS.

- **May 15**
  - Applicants must relinquish all but one acceptance.

- **February**
  - Multiple Acceptance Report
    - Medical schools can see schools at which their own accepted applicants have been accepted.

- **March**
  - National Acceptance Report
    - Medical schools can see schools at which all applicants to their school have been accepted.
You Need to Know

• Medical schools still have interviews to grant.
  – Interview invitations can extend into April.

• Nationally, only about 20% of applicants are accepted into more than one school.
  – It is *not* common to get into multiple schools!

• It is common for Cornell students to gain admission off the waitlist.
The Time Is Now

• Communicate with the schools that have not rejected you
  – To get an interview.
    • In February, schools will know their competition for accepted applicants and will issue final interview invitations.
  – To get off “hold” status.

• Later communications can help you
  – Get from “Interviewed” to “Accepted” status.
  – Get off the waitlist to “Accepted” status.
What Should You Communicate?

• If you’re waiting:
  – Communicate your status
    • Interviews and/or acceptances
  – Inform school of your level of interest. Ask for the school’s consideration of an interview offer.
  – Inform schools of new information about you that might increase their interest level, either directly or through supplemental recommendation letters from new letter writers.
What Should You Communicate?

• If you’re waitlisted:
  – Let schools know where they stand on your ranking list
    • Would you accept their offer over any others?
    • This is especially important if you already have an offer.
  – This becomes increasingly important after May 15.
Sample Future Communications

• **March 30th**
  - More movement occurs with final acceptances issued to balance offers with class size.
  - Send updates in April to capitalize on the movement.

• **March 15th**
  - Schools fill classes = a lot of movement.
  - Update schools with your status.

• **April**
  - Schools construct waitlists based upon National Acceptance Report.
  - Follow up with your most desired schools.

• **May 15th**
  - Spots become available as candidates turn down “excess” offers.
  - If on the waitlist, communicate your strong desire to have a spot in the class.
  - If still on “hold,” communicate your strong desire to move to the waitlist (and then, of course, to a spot in the class).
Sample Future Communications

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  - Spots become available as candidates turn down “excess” offers.
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- Schools continue to turn to waitlisted candidates, as accepted applicants accept other schools offers from their waitlists or ask for deferrals.
- Keep your most desired schools informed of your status.
Create a Back-Up Plan

• Consider other opportunities during the spring:
  – Jobs.
  – Internships.
  – Graduate School.

• View the slides online from last fall’s session on *Increasing Your Chances of Admission With a Gap Year.*
Questions?

Appointments
Tuesday 1-3 pm
Thursday 1-4 pm
Friday 1-4 pm

Walk-in Hours
Monday 1-3 pm
Wednesday 1-3 pm

Other times available upon request.

Call 255.5296 or email llo7@cornell.edu to schedule an appointment.