

Wellesley College's Wait List

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Wellesley have a wait list?

Wellesley receives many more applications from qualified candidates than it has space for in the entering class and can only estimate how many admitted students will choose to accept our offers of admission. This is why some applicants are placed on a wait list. When a candidate receives a wait-list decision, the Board of Admission regards her to be just below the very top group of candidates and is confident that she will be competitive for admission should space become available.

How large is the wait list? How do I confirm my interest in remaining on the wait list?

Last year, several hundred students chose to remain on the wait list. In order to be considered for admission, wait-listed candidates are asked to notify us through an online reply form posted in their Applicant portal (<http://wellesley.edu/admission/portal>). Please note that we require a response from all candidates on the wait list no later than May 1, the Candidate's Reply Date Deadline, but we encourage candidates to reply earlier if Wellesley remains their first-choice college.

If you have applied for financial aid, be sure your financial aid application is complete, since students admitted from our wait list only have a few days to respond to our offer of admission.

Is the wait list ranked in any way?

Wellesley does not rank its wait list. If we have room to admit students, the Board of Admission will again review all candidates who express an interest in receiving consideration for admission from the wait list. This review occurs in separate committee meetings held after the first week of May.

In past years, how many students have been admitted from Wellesley's wait list?

We have admitted 10 to 80 students annually and expect to consider students from the wait list this year as well.

Should I send an enrollment deposit to another institution?

It is important to reserve a place at another college that meets your interests, as we cannot guarantee that we will admit students from the wait list in any given year. So the answer to this question is, yes, you should. Please note that the college to which you send your deposit looks forward to welcoming you in the fall and also understands that you may remain on the wait list elsewhere. This is common practice. Please also note that, in most cases, enrollment deposits are nonrefundable. Should you subsequently be offered a place at Wellesley and decide to accept our offer, it's unlikely that you will be able to recover your original deposit.

Should I schedule an interview?

We do not offer interviews to wait-listed candidates. Should you wish to send an additional letter to update the Board of Admission on your current activities, it will be added to your application folder.

When will you notify me if I am admitted from the wait list?

We typically make our first wait-list offers in the third week of May. We will do our very best to conclude all wait-list activity by June 30. If places do become available and we decide to accept students from the wait list, we will telephone you before sending a letter. You need not call us.

Is there anything that I can do to increase my chances of being admitted from the wait list?

As noted above, if you have additional information that was not a part of your original application (information about any new awards or achievements, or a recent grade report), please feel free to forward that information to the Office of Admission. Any new information will be added to your application for further consideration.