

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 offered a place on a wait list. When a candidate receives a wait-list decision, the Office of Admission regards her as a potentially successful student at Wellesley for whom there were simply not enough admitted spots to offer a place in the class at Regular Decision.

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

In order to give students time to consider all of their admit and wait list offers from other colleges, Wellesley does not open its wait list response form until April 7. If you wish to accept your place on the wait list, please remember to log into your applicant portal and complete the form sometime between April 7 and May 3.

How large is the wait list? Last year, approximately 1,000 students chose to remain on Wellesley's wait list.

Is financial aid available for students on the wait list?

Yes. Financial aid applicants who wish to be considered for admission from the wait list should continue to check their applicant portal to make sure all financial aid documents have been received. Because a financial aid package would be provided along with an offer of admission, only candidates with complete financial aid applications can be considered for admission from the wait list. Students admitted from the wait list are eligible for financial aid that meets 100% of their family's calculated need, the same as if they had been admitted in Regular Decision.

If I am admitted from the wait list, will housing still be available?

Yes. All first year students are provided housing on campus and housing assignments are not made until July.

Is the wait list ranked in any way?

Wellesley does not rank its wait list. If we have room to admit students, the Office of Admission will again review all candidates who express an interest in receiving consideration for admission from the wait list.

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

Last year we admitted approximately 50 students from the wait list. In the last ten years we have admitted as many as 100 students in a year and we have admitted a minimum of 15 students in all but one year. We expect to consider students from the wait list this year as well, but we are uncertain at this time how many offers of admission we will be able to make.

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.

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

We typically make our earliest offers of admission in the second week of May. All offers of admission to wait-listed students are made first by telephone and then by online notification. We will conclude all waitlist activity sometime before August 1.

Can I submit additional materials to my application?

If you have additional information that was not a part of your original application (information about any new achievements or an updated grade report), please feel free to forward that information to the Office of Admission. Any new information will be added to your application file for further consideration.

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

If Wellesley remains or becomes your first choice college, we encourage you to log into your applicant portal and upload a letter expressing your interest.

Can I request an interview to advocate for myself?

No, we do not offer interviews to wait-listed candidates.