

College News

April 2015



Important College Dates & Deadlines for the Seniors (Class of 2015):

- **Spring Break 2015:** Spring Break is the time to make final visits to schools that have made them offers of admission. This is also the month students will begin notifying schools of their decisions. Information about scheduling trips to UC & CSU campuses can be found at the following link on our website [UC Campus Events & Tours](#)
- **May 1, 2015: Commitment Deadline!** Students must formally confirm acceptance or declination of an offer of admission by this date.
- **May & June, 2015:** are critical months for seniors because last semester grades do count! Spring semester classes (that were listed on the student's admission application) that are dropped or not passed with at least a "C" may result in a college rescinding its offer. Most competitive universities expect seniors to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in the senior year



Important College Dates & Deadlines for the Juniors (Class of 2016):

- **Saturday, April 25, 2015 (9 –11 am in G9). College Application Writing** workshop by Mrs. Schultheis. [Click here for more information and to download the registration form](#)
- **May 14, 6:30pm-8pm (Pavilion):** Junior Class College Advisement Parent Night. Mrs. Hawkins and the OPHS Counselors will update parents on what they should be doing to assist their juniors about the college application process in their senior year.
- **May 18, 19, 20 (1:15-2:30pm in G-9):** Mr. McLelland (Ni-Z), Ms. Heeney (A - GL) & Ms. Stasiefski (Gm-Nh) will be meeting with their respective Juniors to prepare them for the college application process in their senior year.

Wait Lists, Deferrals & Appeals



What can students do?

Many students frequently find themselves in the unhappy position of having been deferred or wait-listed at their first choice school. The following information should be helpful both in terms of what to do, as well as what the chances are of still being admitted in these situations.

DEFERRALS:

From College Confidential.com

Accept, reject, and wait list are scenarios that run through the minds of college applicants until spring, when colleges send out their decision letters. Yet, this time of year, some early admission applicants are getting familiar with another application outcome: **deferral**. The jury will be out for these applicants, rolled over to the general applicant pool, until the Regular Decision general admissions cycle has run its course. Deferrals are the purgatory of Early Decision and Early Action (ED/EA) college admissions. You're not in, but you're not out. You're just hanging there, waiting for the April Regular Decision-shoe to fall. It's exquisite anguish.

Many applicants would much rather be rejected outright so that they can just get on with things, without the unfinished business of "admit" or "deny" hanging over them. Most likely, if you've been deferred your credentials are in the ballpark for getting accepted. If they weren't, you'd be rejected. However, your application wasn't so far above average that the college wanted to give up a spot in the entering class until they could compare you to the full applicant pool. The percentages vary from college to college, but many students do get accepted after being deferred.

Deferral can signal hope, or be like a mirage in the desert, something that was never there in the first place. The circumstances surrounding the deferral are what really count here. Why do schools issue deferrals? "Sometimes, schools want to see a high school senior's first quarter or semester grades before they make a decision" on early admissions applicants, says Senior Consultant, Nadine C. Warner. Warner, a former assistant director of admissions at the University of Chicago, adds, "Other times they want to see if other students from the school are going to apply during the Regular Decision admissions cycle so they can compare this student with the other students."

The point is that schools want to see how an early decision applicant looks in comparison to the big picture, the general applicant pool. Admissions officers are eager to fill up first-year classes with top applicants and in the process bolster their school's prestige by attracting the most accomplished students. And, to muddy the waters even more, an ever-expanding roster of colleges now offer a second round of Early Decision--usually with a January 1 deadline. So sometimes "strategizing" includes moving on to an ED II option after being denied--or even deferred--in December by the ED I choice. (Confusing, isn't it?)

What should you do if you end up deferred? You must undertake a carefully deployed program of self-marketing to further enhance your "almost good enough" application. After all, if the colleges deferring you weren't interested in you, they would have rejected you, right? Let's take a look at what you can do to improve your chances of getting in:

Your job is twofold:

- First, you need to establish a distinguishable presence with the admissions office without becoming a pest.
- Second, you need to reveal more of yourself and your sincere passion to attend your target college.

How do you do this? First, you need to communicate your continued interest with the admission office. This should be done by letter (and e-mail is fine, too.) In most cases, the best person to contact is the regional rep for your area of the country. Your job is to find out who this person is. Call admissions and ask for that person's name and e-mail address.

The purpose of your letter will be to: Emphasize your ongoing interest in this college. (If you will definitely enroll if admitted, be sure to say so clearly). Explain why this college is a great match for you. Your reasons should be as specific as possible ("I have done research on the role of women in Mesopotamia and am eager to work with Professor Snurdley whose writing in this area is renowned") and not generic ("It is an excellent school, and I fell in love with the beautiful campus"). Provide updates on what you have done since you sent your application. Ideally, this list would include significant achievements ("I won a national physics contest") but, more commonly, you've been too busy with academics and applications to say much more than, "I pulled up my Calculus grade from a B- to a B+"). Once you've communicated this list to your admission rep, you can follow up with additional updates when you have more news to report. Meanwhile, think about how you can generate such news. Apply for an internship, enter a contest, and get a part-time job.

Finally, you can always consider going for broke with a "gimmick." For instance, if your application touts your talents as a budding poet, perhaps it's time to write your "Homily to Haverford" or your "Ode to Occidental." Granted, gimmicks don't often work, and there's usually a huge element of luck involved if you try them because an effort that might delight one admission official could potentially irk another. But, especially when it comes to candidates at the hyper-selective schools, where your chances aren't too hot to begin with, a carefully conceived outside-the-box approach might just be your very best shot.

WAIT LISTS:

From Collegewise.com

When you end up on a wait list, you're in the twilight zone. Essentially you're on-call. Wait lists are a kind of hedge against the unpredictability of accepted students enrolling at a college. From many years of experience, colleges know rather precisely what percentage of the total number of students offered admission will enroll. That percentage is called yield.

For example, if a college is looking to admit a freshman class of 1,000 students, they may offer 2,000 students admission. That's because they know their yield is almost always around 50 percent. If their yield were historically 25 percent, they would offer 4,000 students admission, and so forth.

Sometimes, however, the yield flies in the face of history. When more than the expected number of students enroll (exceeding historical yield), temporary housing has to be acquired and there is a strain on college resources. When fewer than expected students enroll, colleges go to their wait lists and offer admission to those who are "in waiting." This way, the college makes certain that the incoming freshman class is the right size.

The wait list can serve other purposes. At super-selective schools, where there are many more qualified applicants than can be accommodated, applicants are wait listed as a consolation. Instead of being turned down for admission, they are put on the wait list, the implication being, "We wish we could have admitted you, but there wasn't room." Diplomacy lives. The likelihood of being admitted from the wait list is small. Some schools wait list 500-600 applicants. Your only chance is to undertake a heavy-duty marketing effort with the admissions office. Even then, your chances are small.

The 2015 UC System Wait-List Dilemma

March 3, 2015 LA Times, Larry Gordon Reporter

The UC system will not expand enrollment of California freshmen and transfer students in the fall unless more state revenues are appropriated and will cap enrollment of out-of-state students at UCLA and UC Berkeley, UC President Janet Napolitano said Tuesday. Napolitano told a legislative hearing in Sacramento that the nine undergraduate UC campuses are poised to send out their acceptance and rejection letters and cannot wait to decide enrollment targets until the Legislature and governor make their final budget decisions later in the spring.

UC President Janet Napolitano told legislators on Tuesday that the school system would not be able to accommodate the growing number of applicants. As a result, she said that campuses initially would accept the same numbers of Californians as last year, even though applications are up. However, she held out the possibility that more students may get accepted through the waiting list process and other measures in May and later.

"Absent additional funding, UC is not in a financial position to absorb more California students beyond those we currently serve. As such, campuses have been instructed to keep their enrollment of California students flat, meaning that we are not in a position to add additional California resident students for whom there is no additional state support," Napolitano told an Assembly budget subcommittee on education finance. "We will do all we can to mitigate this decision – through wait lists and deferred enrollment – and will work to make up any shortfall of new California students upon receiving increased funding in future years," she said.

Napolitano is in the midst of a dispute with Gov. Jerry Brown over her plan to increase tuition by as much as 5% over each of the next five years if state funding does not rise enough. Brown so far is offering UC \$120 million, or 4%, more in general revenues but only if tuition remains frozen in the fall for the fourth consecutive year.

In recent years, UC sharply increased the numbers of students from outside the state because they pay about \$23,000 more in tuition than Californians do. But the rising presence of non-Californians is a hot political item, and legislative proposals to increase state funding to the UC require a freeze on their ranks.

On Tuesday, Napolitano said the level of non-Californians offered admission will be capped next year at UCLA and Berkeley, "where the demand is highest," but she did not freeze it at the other seven undergraduate campuses. UC San Diego, Davis and Irvine also enroll significant numbers of non-Californians.

An unprecedented 20% of this year's freshman class across UC is from outside California and about 30% at UCLA and UC Berkeley. Though UC officials insist that Californians are not being excluded to make room for non-residents, many parents and legislators believe that UC has admitted far too many students from outside the state and are concerned that the practice hurts in-state students' chances for admission.

"I also appreciate the concern about the level of non-resident student enrollment. As you know, non-resident enrollment—and the additional tuition those students pay—allow us to enroll more in-state students," Napolitano said. Napolitano's statements may be viewed as part of a delicate, carefully staged negotiating process in Sacramento. Two of the Legislature's top leaders criticized her for it.

Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) said she was "frustrated over UC's latest attempt to use students as bargaining chips." She said that a cap at UCLA and UC Berkeley, "while increasing out-of-state enrollment overall, does not solve the problem. UC's job is to educate California students, not wait list them." Atkins has proposed additional state funding for UC, no tuition increase for Californians while hiking tuition for and freezing enrollment of non-residents.

Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) said in a statement that California students are being offered "a back seat" compared to those from outside the state.

"While I understand the fiscal difficulties the university is facing, it is unfortunate that California students are caught in the middle of a funding battle that can be resolved without victimizing students and their families," said De Leon, who also is advocating a freeze on in-state tuition and a large rise in fees for non-Californians.

About 103,000 California high school seniors have applied to UC for fall 2015 admission, about 3.2% more than last year. Under the worst-case scenario, tuition for undergraduates who are California residents could rise to \$12,804, not including room and board. By the 2019-20 school year, that could increase to \$15,564, if state funding does not rise more than anticipated.

CSU Campus Impaction Information 2015-2016

The list below is for CSU campuses that are impacted for Freshman Admission in 2015-16. They may also use Wait-lists as an enrollment management tool. Visit the individual CSU campus or campuses of your choice for more up-to-date information on campus and program impaction, including admission supplemental criteria:

CSU Campus	First-Time Freshmen	Upper-Division Transfers
<u>Bakersfield</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Channel Islands</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Chico</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Dominguez Hills</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted
<u>East Bay</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Fullerton</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Humboldt</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Long Beach</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>

<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Maritime Academy</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Monterey Bay</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Northridge</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	Not Campus Impacted
<u>Pomona</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San Bernardino</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San Diego</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San Francisco</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San José</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San Luis Obispo</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>San Marcos</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Sonoma</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Transfer</u>
<u>Stanislaus</u>	Not Campus Impacted	Not Campus Impacted

Note: Non-impacted campuses may have impacted programs

APPEALS:

The information below comes from **UCLA & Collegewise.com**, and is fairly representative of the appeal process at most universities:

UCLA does not set aside space in our class for students who appeal admission decisions. Every denied application has gone through extensive reviews. Therefore, for an appeal to have merit it must bring to light new academic and personal information as well as information pertaining to extenuating circumstances that was not present in the application—information that clearly shows the student to be stronger than had been earlier evidenced. High grades received in the senior year are not a basis for the reversal of a decision.

Submitting an Appeal

1. Send us a letter requesting that we reconsider your application. The letter must come from you (the applicant), and be postmarked no later than mid-April.
2. Your letter must clearly outline your reasons for appealing the initial decision. The information you present should be new and compelling. Your letter should not simply repeat information that had already been presented in your application.

3. Submit your high school transcript from the most recent term; please note the transcript must have course information and grades from the fall semester of your senior year and any additional semesters available at the time of appeal; an official transcript in the school's sealed envelope is preferred

4. If the basis for your appeal involves specifics such as a changed grade or an incorrectly reported test score, you should provide documentation (e.g., transcript or a revised score report) in the same envelope as your letter of appeal.

5. Letters of recommendation are not required. However, if you wish to include such letters with your appeal, the limit is two (2). It is also recommended that these be submitted in the same envelope as your letter of appeal.

It is UCLA's usual practice to respond to appeals within three (3) weeks of the date we receive them. However, we cannot guarantee a response by May 1, the date by which many institutions require their applicants to make a commitment. We encourage applicants to consider all of their educational options. While all appeals are reviewed on case-by-case basis, the rate of a decision being reversed based upon an appeal has historically been very low.

How to Appeal an Admissions Decision

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What is an appeal?

An appeal is a student's formal request, in writing, that a college reconsider an application for admission. The appeal letter should be about one page and should explain your position why you believe you should be reconsidered for admission. Some colleges also invite you to include extra material that wasn't in your original application, such as another teacher recommendation or report card from the first semester of the senior year. While most appeals are not successful, students who can present compelling new information sometimes benefit from the formal request to be reconsidered.

Who should appeal?

As unfair as the admissions process may seem at times, most colleges are very thorough in their evaluation of candidates. That's why the few appeals that are successful usually bring to light new information that was not available to the college when they were reviewing your application. For example, if your 7th semester grades were a dramatic improvement over your previous grades, or your club that you started raised a large amount of money for a charity event you planned, or the new internship you just secured happens to be in the field you plan on majoring in, these are things that can be taken into account when reconsidering your application. Students who do not have new information to share have a very difficult time presenting a compelling case for an appeal to be accepted.

Some students want to appeal a decision because they simply believe they are stronger applicants than other students from their school who were admitted. Unfortunately, while the fact that these students were admitted and you were denied may frustrate you, the colleges will not consider this a valid reason to overturn their original decision. It's important not to criticize the decisions that were made in favor of other applications. Keep your tone positive and focus on what you have accomplished since you applied. Do not compare yourself to other applicants who were admitted.

How-to appeal

1. Carefully read the decision letter the college sent you, and research the admissions section of the college's website to see if any information about appealing decisions is provided. Some colleges will come right out and tell you that they do not accept appeal requests. Other colleges will not only tell you that they accept appeals, but will also tell you exactly what to do in order to appeal the decision. Follow all instructions the college provides. And if any of their instructions seem to contradict what you read in this guideline, do whatever the college tells you to do.

2. Write a letter as soon as possible explaining why you want the admissions committee to reconsider your application for admission. Be polite and respectful, and make sure to present new information; don't just rehash what was in your application. Time is of the essence when it comes to appealing, so don't wait to do this.

3. If the college indicates that extra letters of recommendation will be accepted in appeals cases, consider asking teacher to write a letter of recommendation (a different teacher than you used before). However, you should only do this if you feel this teacher will be able to present new and compelling information. For example, if you recently rose your grade

dramatically, excelled in a class project, or received an academic award for your work in a particular teacher's class; it might be worth asking that teacher to write a letter for you.

4. If invited to do so by the college, consider submitting recent paper or project you have completed in your senior year. If you will be submitting a paper or project, make sure you reference it in your letter, and make sure to explain.

5. Send all of these materials in one envelope to the admissions office.

Final thoughts on appeals:

We know it's disappointing not to be accepted to a school you really wanted to attend, and we understand why you might decide to try an appeal. But we want you to be excited about whatever college you ultimately attend, so we feel compelled to say that the very best thing you could do while you're waiting for your appeal decision is to start falling in love with one of your other colleges that said, "Yes." Visit those schools again. Buy a sweatshirt. Start imagining yourself there. You'll feel much more positive and encouraged by focusing on great school that admitted you, rather than lamenting the decision of one who said, "No." And remember that the vast majority of college freshmen report that they are happy with their college experience, even those students who were not admitted to schools that were their first choice at the time. Whether or not your appeal is granted, you're going to go to college with a bunch of 18-22 year-olds and all you have to do is learn and have fun for four years. It might not feel like it now, but you're going to be OK.



Some Advice From Your OPHS Counselors:

Letters of recommendation supporting an appeal or deferral should not be reprints or copies of previously written letters. They should be written to the admission committee at the specific school with new information included! Because of the low rate of successful appeals students should make plans to commit to their second choice school by May 1st to ensure that they have a college to attend. If a student's appeal is successful and they ultimately decide to rescind their commitment, they should be prepared to forfeit the deposit that most colleges require at commitment time