

AIS Wait List Policy Implementation: Call for Comments

The group of staff and faculty working on implementation issues related to the new AIS wait list policy (see <http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/WL2013>) has identified the following possibilities to address concerns raised about the need to prioritize enrollment in some classes based on class level. Concerns about prioritizing enrollment based on major/minor status will be more effectively addressed not through AIS wait list technology, but by proposing major-based restrictions on specific classes through CEP.

These proposals do not affect a course-sponsoring agency's ability to issue permission numbers to students whose progress would be adversely affected by not accessing a class.

We would very much appreciate your feedback; please post comments on this website before January 10, 2014.

Possibility A: Continue current schedule but add wait list appointments based on class level

Wait lists continue to be available only after all students have enrolled through first and second pass. Within wait list enrollment, however, appointments are set differently for each student based on class level (senior, junior, sophomore, frosh).

BENEFITS:

- Allows for gating for new frosh and transfers. (Gating is reserving spaces for new students and/or those with later appointment schedules through the management of class capacity numbers on individual courses.) Since wait lists are not active until after new student enrollment at summer orientation, classes can be made inaccessible to continuing students during new student enrollment. If wait lists were instead populated during this time, it would result in auto-enrollment of continuing students into class spaces that were intended for new frosh and transfers.
- Establishes a level of prioritization based on class level, since we can set appointments in class-level order for seniors, juniors, sophomores, then frosh.

DRAWBACKS:

- Adds a complexity in asking students to check their wait list enrollment time instead of being able to give one campus-wide date and time when wait lists become available.
- Two pass wait list appointments, while prioritizing graduating seniors, may further disadvantage the freshman class in the enrollment system. By the time frosh wait list appointments become available, it is conceivable that many courses required for their intended major may already be heavily wait-listed.

Possibility B: Pursue a different strategy for fall enrollment than for winter and spring (to accommodate new student enrollment at summer orientation).

Fall: Open wait list enrollment in the same way we currently do, in early August after new students have had the chance to enroll. Unlike the current system,

however, add different appointment times during wait list enrollment based on class level (senior, junior, sophomore, frosh).

Winter and Spring: Open wait list enrollment during second pass for all students. This would mean seniors would now have a second pass consisting just of wait list enrollment.

BENEFITS:

- For winter/ spring: If classes are full after first pass or fill during second pass, students would immediately have the opportunity to place themselves on a wait list, instead of waiting to enroll during a later time period.
- For winter/ spring: Adding a second-pass wait list appointment for seniors, instead of allowing wait list enrollment in first-pass, would ensure that seniors do not fill all courses prior to other class levels having access.
- For winter/ spring: Demand for specific courses would be visible to departments earlier, so they would have more time to respond to that demand by expanding curricular capacity.
- For fall: Would allow for gating of classes for new students during the summer enrollment period.
- Prioritization based on class level would automatically be enforced for all quarters, since the schedule would follow the usual class-level order of second pass.

DRAWBACKS:

- It may be difficult to communicate to students the different schedules for winter, spring, and fall enrollment.
- Currently we do not admit many students for the winter terms, and we just piloted this year having winter admits enroll with continuing students. Pursuing possibility B would mean that we would always have to include new student enrollment for winter along with continuing, even if in the future our winter class size grew and an orientation were to be offered in December.
- Frosh could be disadvantaged by allowing all other class levels to wait list courses before they are able to fill up their full schedule. Courses may be too heavily wait listed by the time their 2nd pass enrollment/wait list appointment arrives.

Possibility C: Continue with current AIS wait list schedule:

Wait lists open after all students (including new students) have enrolled through both first and second pass. No class-level prioritization is in place for wait list enrollment at this time – all students have the same wait list appointment.

BENEFITS:

- Allows gating for new student enrollment.
- Schedule is simple to explain to students. Since all wait lists open at the same time, we can publicize one date for all students.
- Frosh will have the same chance as all other class levels to wait-list a course. Since they are last in the two-pass enrollment system, the equal wait list appointment would give them a better chance of getting into courses required for their intended major.

DRAWBACKS:

- Once a class is full, no prioritization based on class level is possible for auto-enroll wait lists. If a class is full and a sophomore happens to log in to sign up on a wait list

before a senior does, the sophomore could end up in a class that is high priority for seniors.

- Our system of opening wait list enrollment so late in the enrollment process for winter and spring does not allow us to capture information about demand in time for departments to be responsive and increase capacity where possible.

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