

Lewis & Clark College

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Frequently Asked Questions About Our Wait List

Read this sheet carefully. Timely action on your part is required before we will consider you for admission from the wait list.

Check the date of the official letter offering you a place on the wait list. If the letter is dated before April 15, the standard deadlines and timeline listed here apply. If the letter is dated April 15 or later, carefully review “What if I have been offered a place on the wait list after April 15?” on the reverse for information about your deadlines.

Why is there a wait list?

Like all selective colleges, Lewis & Clark has fewer spaces than it has qualified applicants. A certain number of the students we accept will not enroll, but it is impossible to predict this figure with perfect accuracy. The wait list allows us to “inch up” to our enrollment limit as we receive responses from admitted students.

Where am I on the wait list?

Please note that we will not place you on the wait list unless we receive your Wait List Response Form by April 15.

If you elect to be placed on the wait list, you will also have until that date to submit additional information for your file. (See “How does the wait list work?” below.) We usually do not have enough data to begin gauging the enrollment rate of admitted students and to make our initial grouping of applicants on the wait list before the end of the third week in April.

How does the wait list work?

Our review of the applications of students on the wait list is subject to the response of admitted students. The sooner we hear from them, the sooner you are likely to hear from us. Unfortunately, many admitted students do not notify us of their final choices much in advance of our May 2 deadline. Nonetheless, by the end of the third week of April we usually have received enough responses to get a sense

of the incoming class. With that information, we begin to review the applications of those students who returned the Wait List Response Form by April 15. We will consider any new or updated application information with the aim of achieving a balanced and appropriately sized class. (See “Will sending additional information enhance my chances of being admitted?” below.) Our priorities may change as we continue receiving responses from admitted students.

If I choose to be placed on the wait list, what are my chances of being admitted?

Your chances of being admitted depend on the responses we receive from previously admitted students, as well as how many of those offered a spot on the wait list elect to be placed there. We have admitted varying numbers of students from the wait list from year to year as noted in your decision letter. We encourage you to remain positive *and* to make sure you have a backup option for May 2 in case you are not eventually admitted to Lewis & Clark.

Will sending additional information enhance my chances of being admitted?

Information above and beyond what you have already provided us may strengthen your application. Graded writing samples, documentation of recent accomplishments or achievements, another academic recommendation, or your most recent grades, for example, will give us a more complete picture of your qualifications. Academic information is more useful than extracurricular information.

When will I find out whether I am admitted or not?

In the past few years we have been able to let some students on our wait list know of available space in late April. Most students on the wait list will not hear from us until the first two weeks of May. The latest possible date we will notify you is June 30. We

know this is an anxious time for all and will make every effort to notify you as soon as possible. (Transfer students are required to send spring term grades and will not be considered for admission until we have received their updated transcripts.)

Is an interview recommended?

In some cases an interview may be helpful. If you did not interview with us earlier, you may wish to call your admissions representative to discuss this option. Please do not make any travel arrangements before contacting admissions.

If I am admitted, will there be housing on campus available for me?

Yes. In fact, all new students are required to live on campus for their first four semesters unless they are living with a parent in the Portland area, are married, are at least 21 years old, or have completed at least 28 semester hours of transferable college credit (entering transfer students only).

Will there be any financial aid available for me if I am admitted?

To qualify for financial aid, you must have already completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile, listing Lewis & Clark on the forms. To the extent you have demonstrated eligibility for need-based funding, you will be offered federal aid options such as the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Stafford Loan, Federal Perkins Loan, and Federal Work Study. Lewis & Clark institutional grant dollars, however, are subject to different allocation procedures. Specifics depend on the acceptance rate of admitted students and their particular aid awards. If you are admitted, we will let you know about aid before your deposit is required.

If I am admitted, how much time will I have to decide?

To be fair to other applicants still on the wait list, we will ask that you make a decision very quickly if you are admitted after May 1. You will receive a formal offer of admission by phone, followed by a letter. A deposit will be required within three days. The sooner you respond, the sooner you will catch up with mailings about housing, College Outdoor trips, and other information of importance to new students.

What if I am notified there are no spaces left in the entering first-year class?

We encourage you to consider reapplying to Lewis & Clark in the future as a transfer student. Each fall we enroll about 60 such students. We will keep your current application on file for two years. If you decide to seek admission to the College again within those two years, you need only complete our simplified reapplication process. To strengthen your reapplication, you should enroll full-time at another college and pursue a well-rounded academic course load. Please contact our transfer counselor to determine the appropriate timing for your reapplication. The transfer counselor can also help if you would like assistance selecting courses that will both strengthen your academic profile and result in transferable credit.

What if I am notified there are no spaces left in the entering transfer class?

We encourage you to consider reapplying to Lewis & Clark in the future, either for the upcoming spring semester or a subsequent term. We will keep your current application on file for two years. If you wish to seek admission to the College again within those two years, you need only complete our simplified reapplication process. To strengthen your reapplication, you should enroll full-time at another institution and pursue a well-rounded academic course load. Please contact our transfer counselor to determine the appropriate timing for your reapplication. The transfer counselor can also help if you would like assistance selecting courses that will both strengthen your academic profile and result in transferable credit.

What if I have been offered a place on the wait list after April 15?

If you elect to be placed on the wait list, you must return the Wait List Response Form within 10 days of the date of your letter. You should also submit any supplemental materials as soon as possible. All other information on this sheet applies to you. We will make every effort to notify you about available space in the entering class within the first two weeks of May. The latest possible date we will notify you is June 30. Transfer students must submit spring term grades and will not be considered for admission until we have received an updated transcript.

Questions?

Still have questions? Feel free to call us at 503-768-7040 or 800-444-4111.