

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO HOUSE SYSTEM

General Waitlist FAQ

Spring and Summer Prior to the Academic Year

Special rules for incoming students.

Incoming students may complete a General Waitlist form during Orientation Week, however, *incoming students will not join the established queue until the first day of classes of Autumn Quarter (after Orientation Week)*. At that time, the Office of Undergraduate Student Housing will randomize the General Waitlist forms that have been submitted by incoming first year students to determine their priority in the larger queue.

Special rules for returning students for the Spring and Summer preceding the academic year.

As a returning student, you typically may not waitlist for a room in your current House during the academic year, because in-House vacancies are first offered to the House and moves are determined by seniority and random lottery (if applicable). However, *over the summer months you may waitlist for a room in your House*. While rare, when filling summer vacancies, know that we consult the In-House Waitlist first and then the General Waitlist and we move you automatically. Once the academic year begins, a request for a room in your current House becomes null as any in-House vacancy will again be handled in the House first.

What if I want to change my General Waitlist preferences?

If you want to *change the order* of your original preferences or *change the room type* of your original preferences, you may do so without losing your place in the queue. These updates must be made by you in writing (email is fine).

If you want to *add* a new Residence Hall or House to your preferences, you must complete a separate, additional General Waitlist request form. The original form will remain in its original place, and the second one will join the queue in the order it was received.

What happens next?

If you are the next person in the queue for an available space and the available space matches one of your preferences, *we will automatically move you into that space anytime between the day the General Waitlist opens for next year, throughout the summer*.

Once the Autumn quarter begins there is a hold on room changes for the first three weeks of school. Once room changes begin, if you are the next person in the queue for an available space and the available space matches one of your preferences, *we will offer you the space and you will have 48 hours to accept or decline the offer*. You will then have another 48 hours to complete the move.

What happens if my second or third choice is met?

You will remain on this waitlist until your highest preference is met, unless you specifically request otherwise in writing.

Can I turn down an offer to move?

Up until Autumn quarter you will not be *offered* a room to accept or decline, you are automatically moved.

You can turn down an offer, but only once the academic year has begun. If you turn down an offer that matches your highest preference, you will be removed from the General Waitlist. If you turn down an offer that matches a lower preference, you will remain on the waitlist for your higher preference(s), unless you notify us otherwise.

What happens to my In-House seniority?

When you move, you gain seniority for every quarter that you live in your new House, including the quarter that you move in. You do not retain or carry-over any seniority from your former House. If you move during Winter or Spring quarter, you will have accumulated fewer quarters in your new House than students who have lived in the House since Autumn quarter which will impact in-House seniority during the Spring Lottery for the following academic year.

When does the General Waitlist close?

During the last three weeks of Autumn and Winter quarters, the General Waitlist freezes while each House offers vacant spaces to its own residents in preparation for end-of-quarter room changes.

The General Waitlist closes for the year on the Friday of the first week of Spring quarter. This means nobody can get on the General Waitlist after this date and that the final General Waitlist offers of the year will be made the Monday of second week of Spring quarter.