

The Theatre School at DePaul University

BFA Admissions Waitlist FAQ

Waitlisted? First of all, congratulations! We waitlist only a very small percentage of our applicant pool, so that in itself is an accomplishment. Hopefully, we can help shed some light on our waitlist process for you.

So, according to this, I've been waitlisted. What does that mean?

We send out our first round of admission offers in mid-March. Under the guidelines of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), colleges and universities must give first offer admits until May 1 to respond (unless the applicant has applied under early decision). We make offers from our waitlist as soon as spots become available, which can happen as early as April or as late as July.

How do I accept my waitlist offer?

Log in to your DePaul Portal and select the appropriate response by April 1. If you are no longer interested in our program and do not wish to be considered for admission, indicate that option on the form. NOTE: If after you accept your initial waitlist offer you become no longer interested in being considered, *please* email us ASAP. There are other students who want your spot!

Can I just call you with my answer?

No. All waitlist responses must be received via your Blue Demon Domain.

I've heard that being waitlisted is more of a consolation; do I actually have a chance at being admitted, or are you trying to let me down easy?

Yes, you do have a chance! Every person on our waitlist is someone we would like to work with and is therefore someone who has a legitimate shot at admission. Because our program is so small, we must admit small numbers of students at a time to ensure we don't go over our capacity. Also, keep in mind we are not everyone's first-choice school, so our first round of offers will not result in a full class. We use our waitlist every year to fill our first-year class.

If I accept a spot on the waitlist, do I have to accept an offer of admission?

No. Accepting a waitlist offer is in no way a binding agreement. We simply want to know whether you still want, at this time, to be considered for admission to our program. NOTE: If you are no longer interested in being considered, *please* email us ASAP. That way we can give your spot on the waitlist to the next person in line.

How long is the list, and where am I on it?

This is not information we are able to provide to individual applicants. Your position on the waitlist may change frequently, depending on the decisions made by other applicants, offers sent, etc.

Is there anything I can do to improve my position, or increase my chances of getting an offer?

There is not. Your position on our waitlist is based on your existing application and audition or interview. The faculty will not review new or updated resumes, portfolios, recommendations, awards, or make any waitlist adjustments.

Can I call or email the admissions office for updates on my waitlist position?

We are always happy to answer questions, however as stated above, we do not give out information about waitlist status to applicants, parents, counselors, or teachers because it is constantly changing.

Another school wants a decision from me right away, but you are my first choice! What do I do?

This is a common situation among selective programs. Applicants are encouraged to ask for an extension or hold off replying to other schools with the hope of receiving an offer from us. If this is not possible, applicants may accept an offer from another school as a backup while they wait for an offer from us. If they are then offered admission to The Theatre School, they tell the other school that they've changed their mind. There is nothing wrong or unethical about doing this. In any case, keep in mind that the national response deadline is May 1, and no school can require a response before that date.

I've decided to attend another school. How do I get off of your waitlist?

To remove yourself from our waitlist, please notify us via email. We appreciate being notified of your decision promptly, so that we can offer your spot to another waitlisted student.

How are offers made from the waitlist?

Applicants receiving an offer from the waitlist will be emailed and will have two weeks to respond before we go to the next person on the waitlist.

How many people on the waitlist eventually get into the program?

This number changes every year, so there is really no good way to answer this question. We definitely use our waitlist to fill our class every year.

What do I do if I get an admission offer from the waitlist?

If you are offered admission from our waitlist, you will receive a notification via email asking you to log into your Blue Demon Domain. If you decide to attend The Theatre School, submit your intent to enroll form, tuition deposit, and housing deposit (if living in campus housing) by the deadline provided. It's also a good idea to let our office know (email or phone) if you are accepting our offer of admission.

If I am admitted from the waitlist, will the faculty know I was not a "first offer," and will that affect my experience in the program?

No. Admission status is not tracked in any way by our faculty.

Are students admitted from the waitlist still eligible for financial aid, scholarships, and housing?

All first-year Theatre School students have housing priority, and are considered for scholarship, whether they were a direct admit or a waitlisted admit. Provided you have completed and submitted the FAFSA, you can still be considered for financial aid. If you do not plan to complete the FAFSA, please let us know so we can create a financial aid package for you without this information.

Will I be notified if the class fills up and you are no longer admitting students from the list?

Yes. Every waitlisted applicant will receive a final decision from us, whether it is an offer of admission or notification that the class has been filled.

How long can I expect to wait before I receive a final decision?

It depends on the responses we get from the offers we send out. You could receive a decision anytime between April and early July, depending on how long it takes to fill the class.

I would like to attend DePaul University even if I am not admitted to The Theatre School from the waitlist.

If you are placed on the waitlist and would like to be considered for another major at DePaul you may request reconsideration for another major via your Blue Demon Domain. Requesting reconsideration will not affect your status on The Theatre School's waitlist but it will expedite admission to another non-theatre major (or select theatre majors) if you do not make it off the waitlist.

What should I do until I hear from you?

Quite literally, you should wait. We know this is an extremely anxious time for our waitlisted applicants, but unfortunately, this is the way the process works. We are doing everything we can to make your wait for a final decision as short as possible; remember, it's in our best interest to fill our class as soon as we can, so we don't want to keep people waiting long.

Hang in there, and good luck!

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