The Law Bidding System

This document provides instructions on how to use the Law Bidding system in CAESAR.

Note: For newly admitted LLM students and transfer students, you need to be matriculated by the Admissions office and have a working NetID and password. Newly admitted students will be matriculated and activated in early August.

For newly admitted JD students, the first semester, first year courses and schedule are predetermined. You are automatically enrolled in your first semester classes. You will have the opportunity to enroll in two electives in the spring term, but do not need to do anything in the fall term. Your class schedule will be available on CAESAR during Orientation.

Students are assigned bidding points for the entire academic year (Fall, Winter Intersession, and Spring). Students bid the number of points they wish for classes they want. The point “cost” of a class is the lowest number of points bid successfully for that class. Points bid in excess of this floor price are returned to your account at the end of the round. Make sure, at the end of Fall bidding, that you have points remaining in your account to bid for Spring classes.

Regardless of program or year in school, the bidding system allows one to bid heavily (and successfully) for any class. Classes that do not fill “cost” only one (1) point. The system is specifically designed to address in a fair and clear way enrollment in the 15% or so of classes where demand exceeds capacity.

Schedule of Bidding Events

(specific dates and times are posted on the Registration and Records page of the Law School web site)

Each semester, there are two rounds of bidding with an intersession between. During the intersession and the second round, previous successful bids and wait list positions may be cancelled to recover the points. During the second round you may bid for additional classes. Each round establishes a separate “price” for each class.

In the Fall, immediately after we process Round 2 bidding, there will be a 2-day period for Last Chance cancellation of successful bids or wait list results. This period gives you the opportunity to recapture points expended for classes or wait list positions for use in the Spring. The Last Chance period ends the Northwestern Law bidding system for the Fall. The results will then be moved from the bidding system to the Enrollment page in CAESAR. Thereafter points no longer matter and all points spent may not be recaptured.

In the Spring, Round 2 ends the Northwestern Law bidding system. The results will then be moved from the bidding system to the Enrollment page in CAESAR. Thereafter points no longer matter and all points spent may not be recaptured. Your points do not roll over from year to year, and points are not required for Summer registration, so there is no value in saving points at the end of Spring bidding.

Following bidding in each semester, there is an Add/Drop period. During this period, you may drop any class and add any open class to your schedule using “Enrollment” on CAESAR, not Law Bidding. Points no longer matter. You may also drop wait list positions and add yourself to wait lists.

There are special rules for all Negotiation sections. You may add yourself to these classes at any time before the first class meeting if there is a seat. You may not drop the class after it has met and first class attendance is mandatory. If you do not attend the first class, you will be dropped and your place will be filled by students in attendance on any wait list, in the order in which they appear on the wait list. Students on a wait list should attend the first class.
Bidding Tutorials

On the Registration and Records page of the Northwestern Law website, you will find step-by-step bidding tutorials that show you how to use the CAESAR registration system.

CAESAR menu options

Log in to CAESAR, select "Law Bidding and Class Schedule" from the Student Homepage." You will then see a menu on the left hand side of the page, including: “Submit/Change Bids,” “View Bids,” “Bidding Results,” "Course Bidding History," "Instructor Bidding History," as well as the term course schedules.

Submit/Change Bids

This is the place you build your list of requested classes and assign point values to your bids. This page will display your name, your student ID (called an EmplID), your year in school, and the number of points you have to spend.

You select a class by using the drop down list appearing under Law Class Bids. In the box labeled “New Bid” you assign the number of points you wish to bid for that class. To add a class you simply click on the “+” sign, select a new class from the drop down list, and assign points to that class. You may bid up to ten classes. You may check bidding history after you select a class and before you assign points for that bid.

You will note that your point balance changes as you “spend” points.

To delete a class from your bid list, simply select the “-” for that class.

After you have completed your list, be sure to select the “Save” button at the bottom of the page. To cancel any changes that you make in a session, select the “Clear Changes” button at the bottom of the page.

View Bids

To view your bids, select this option. You will see the bids that you have saved. It is recommended that you always select this option after you have submitted or modified your bids to confirm your actions.

Bidding Results

After Rounds 1 and 2, we will process your bids to a result. The result will be displayed on this page. This is also the page where you can cancel a bid that places you in a class or on a wait list and recapture the points that were “spent.” You will use this page during the Intersession period to recapture points, if that is what you want to do.

This page displays the points that you bid for each class as well as the actual bid cost of the class. If you were unsuccessful in securing a place, this page will tell you why. If your bid placed you on a wait list, your position on the wait list will be indicated.

To cancel a place in a class or a place on a wait list for a class, check “cancel.” When you do, a “confirm” check box will appear. You must check this box as well, then save your action. This additional step is designed to help you avoid inadvertent cancellations.

General Principles

As you bid for classes, please keep these general principles in mind:

Entering Your Bids:

The system requires you to differentiate between classes for which you bid by assigning point values to each class. Each class must have a distinct and different number of points assigned.

Bidding Change and Modifications:
You may change or modify your bids at will during Round 1 and Round 2. You may cancel any successful bid (you have a place in a class or a position on a wait list) at any time during the Intersession or Round 2 and recover the points.

**Bid v. Cost Values:**

A successful bid in either round will “cost” you either one point, if the class does not fill or, if the class fills, the lowest number of points successfully bid for that class, regardless of the number of points that you bid.

**Wait List Positions:**

Wait list positions “cost” the number of points you bid on the class (regardless of the “cost” of a place in the class to the last successful bidder). If you are assigned to a waitlist, you will see the message “SIZE, followed by your wait list position number” when you view your bids at the end of each Round.

If you cancel a wait list position after Round 1, you recapture the points, but lose your position on the wait list. You may re-bid the class in Round 2, but your position will be lower on the wait list than those students on the wait list from Round 1. Once on a wait list from Round 1, you will not be superseded by a higher point bid in Round 2.

**Co-Requisites:**

If a class has a co-requisite, you must bid more points for the co-requisite class than the class that requires it.

**Time Conflicts:**

You may bid for classes that have a time conflict, however, the system is designed to consider the class with the higher number of points first and, if you are successful, deny the class with the fewer number of points because of the time conflict. If you are denied a class because of a time conflict, you will see the message “TIME.”

**Multiple Section Courses:**

You may bid multiple sections of the same course. The system will place you in the section bid higher, if it can, and deny placement in lower bid sections. If you are denied a class because you were admitted to another section of the same course, you will see the message “SEC.”

**Maximum Number of Bids and Credits:**

You may submit bids for up to 10 classes. The bidding system will stop placing you in classes or on wait lists when to do so would give you more than 17 semester hours of credit. Seventeen credits is the ABA maximum. If you are denied a class because you have exceeded the 17 credit limit, you will see the message “CRED”.

**Non-Biddable Courses:**

Some courses are elective, non-biddable courses. Students are enrolled in non-biddable classes manually by Student Services, but these classes are not “free.” You must have sufficient points in your account to “pay” for non-biddable classes at the rate of 25 points per credit hour. We will adjust your point account manually when you are enrolled. Examples of elective, non-biddable classes are Practicum: Judicial, Senior Research, Trial Team, and, in the spring, all Clinic classes in which students are continuing from a fall enrollment. If you wish to enroll in any of these classes in the spring, be sure not to use all of your points in the fall as additional points will not be allocated to students.

**Add/Drop:**

During the Add/Drop period that follows you may add any class that remains open without cost. You may drop any class or wait list position during the Add/Drop period, however the points are not recaptured.

**IMPORTANT:** Canceling a bid after Round 2 bidding does NOT drop the class. After Round 2, you must drop or add classes using the Enrollment feature of CAESAR, not Law Bidding.

**How Many Points Should I Bid?**
You will find a link on the detail page for each class to bidding history by professor or class. You will also find links to instructor and course bidding history on the Submit/Change bids page after you select a class on which to bid. These histories will help you decide how many points to bid.

Please note that the bidding histories do not provide perfect information. The bidding desires of the students change from semester to semester and with each residential population of students. Thus, please use the history as a guide, not an absolute, to the number of points you will need to bid this semester to secure a seat in the class.

The bidding points permit you to accurately express the strength of your class preferences. If you truly wish a class, bid high, understanding that if you are too high, points in excess of the cost of the class are returned at the end of Round 1.

**Wait list management**

During the add/drop period the Manager of Curricular Systems will promote students to classes from wait lists manually daily, as openings occur.

*Good Luck!*

This bidding tool aims to facilitate class requests and resolve enrollments on a fair basis in those few classes where demand exceeds supply.