Northwestern Law Bidding FAQs

General Bidding FAQs:
- Bidding System Instructions
- Holds
- Course/Professor Bidding and Waitlist History
- Which courses satisfy graduation requirements
- Study Abroad Bidding Points
- Winter Intersession Bidding

Waitlist FAQs:
- How many points does a seat on the waitlist cost
- Will I be enrolled from the waitlist
- Can I rebid from the waitlist
- Can someone move ahead of me on the waitlist
- Can my professor give me permission to enroll from the waitlist
- Can the professor increase the class size

Bidding Results FAQs:
- How do I read my bid results
- Should I cancel my bid
- I got everything I wanted in Round 1

Q: I am bidding for the first time. Is there something that explains the Northwestern Law class bidding system?
A: Yes. The student enterprise system is called CAESAR. Detailed instructions on how to use CAESAR, including the features of the Northwestern Law class bidding system and the points allocated to each student population, can be found on the Registration and Records page under the menu item Registration. All students are encouraged to review the Bidding Instructions for further instructions.

While every effort is made to present to you an accurate schedule, changes are sometimes unavoidable or unanticipated. Registration updates will be sent by email, if needed.

Q: If there is a hold on my record placed by Student Accounts, Student Health, or because I haven't submitted official transcripts or I have not designated/confirmed emergency contact info, will that impact on my bidding success?
A: Yes. A hold will prevent bidding. You should check now and resolve any holds with Student Accounts, Student Health, or my office. A registration hold placed on your file because you have not designated an emergency phone number is removed immediately and automatically after you update the emergency contact info. You can check for holds by selecting Student Center on CAESAR. If there is a hold, you will see it on the right side of that page.
Q: How do I determine what the bidding history has been for a course or a professor?
A: You will see a link for course bidding history and professor bidding history on the “detail” web page for each course scheduled for the fall in the CAESAR schedule of classes. You will see the same on the submit/change bids web page. In addition, we have posted waitlist histories from Fall 2010 through Spring 2015 on the Registration and Records web page: Registration and Records Website.

When reviewing the bid history with waitlist data, keep in mind that the Round 1 bid price represents the LOWEST successful bid. If there was a waitlist for the class, the Round 2 bid price represents the HIGHEST bid used to secure a spot on the waitlist. The Round 2 bid does NOT indicate a successful bid as it’s possible no one was actually enrolled into the class from the waitlist.

Bidding histories can be helpful references, but they do not provide perfect information. Student bidding desires 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.

Last, keep in mind that the points in your account are for the entire academic year, including spring. If you use all of your points in the fall, you will be unable to bid this spring. In that event, you will have to build your spring schedule during the drop/add period by adding open classes to your schedule.

Q: I know that a Perspective Elective and a Professional Skills course are required to graduate. How do I determine which courses meet these requirements?
Q: This question and many others are answered in the Curricular Advising FAQs posted on the Registration and Records web page.

Q: How many points are required for study abroad?
A: Study abroad requires 1200 bid points. Students must have at least this many points available or they will not be able to participate in study abroad.

Q: When is Winter Intersession registration? Do we bid for Winter Intersession?
A: Winter Intersession registration utilizes the bidding system. The bidding for Winter Intersession typically opens in late October. Details will be sent as soon as the bidding dates are finalized, so keep an eye on your inbox.
**Q:** How much does a waitlist position cost?

**A:** Waitlist 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 do not cancel your waitlist position during bidding, you will be charged these points regardless of whether you are ultimately enrolled in the course.**

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.

(return to menu)

**Q:** I'm number X on the waitlist, what should I do, what's the chance of me getting in?

**A:** Unfortunately, we cannot provide direction on this. Whether you get a seat is entirely dependent on the number of students who drop and there is no way to predict how it will play out. If you choose to remain on the waitlist during Fall Round 2, you still have the option of dropping your place on the waitlist during Last Chance to recover your points. There is no Last Chance in spring as points do not carry over from year to year, so remaining on the waitlist after Spring Round 2 will cost you whatever you bid for the waitlist position.

(return to menu)

**Q:** I'm on the waitlist, can I place a higher bid in Round 2 to secure a seat?

**A:** No. If you drop your waitlist position and attempt to re-bid in Round 2, you will not secure a seat and will end up with a lower position on the waitlist than what you had at the end of Round 1.

(return to menu)

**Q:** I'm on the waitlist and my friend said she's going to outbid my place on the waitlist. Can she really do that?

**A:** No, your friend is totally trying to psych you out, which is just plain mean. Once you’re on the waitlist from Round 1, your position cannot be superseded by a higher point bid in Round 2. No one can “line jump” the waitlist.

(return to menu)

**Q:** I'm on the waitlist, but I spoke to the professor and he said he approves my enrollment. Will you enroll me in the class?

**A:** No. If there is a waitlist, no one can approve your enrollment ahead of the students on the waitlist. We’ll be happy to enroll you if enough students drop to create an available seat for you based on your place on the waitlist.

(return to menu)

**Q:** Can I ask the professor to increase the class size?

**A:** No. Enrollment caps are non-negotiable and can’t be increased (or decreased).

**Q:** How the heck do I read these bid results? What does CRED, TIME, SEC, ENRL, PREREQ, or SIZE mean?!?

**A:** Check out our decoder sheet, available here:
http://www.law.northwestern.edu/registrar/documents/How_To_Read_Bidding_Results.pdf

(return to menu)
Q: I have a GOOD bid result. Should I click the Cancel button?
A: Clicking the CANCEL button will cancel your bid and forfeit your seat in the class (or place on the waitlist). Do not click Cancel unless you want out of the class. We cannot guarantee you’ll be able to recover your seat if you accidentally click Cancel, so you’ll want to be really, really certain you intend to give up your seat before clicking Cancel.
(return to menu)

Q: I got everything I wanted in Round 1. Now what?
A: Congratulations! If you are happy with your Round 1 bid results, you do not need to bid in Round 2.
(return to menu)