

Northwestern Law Bidding FAQs

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Q: I am bidding for the first time. Is there something that explains the Northwestern Law class bidding system?

A: Yes. The bidding system is in [CAESAR](#). Detailed instructions on how to use the Northwestern Law 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](#) and view the [Bidding Tutorial](#).
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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?

Yes. A hold will keep us from turning your bid results into actual fall enrollment. When that happens, **you will lose your bid results and your bid points**. You should check now and resolve any holds with Student Accounts or Student Health. 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.

1a. I have a hold placed by Student Accounts and/or Student Health, but I did everything they asked me to do. Will you lift the hold for me?

No, we do not have access to remove (or place) holds on behalf of another department. Please keep in mind online bill payments will not instantly remove a Student Accounts hold. I encourage you to address your holds as early as possible.

1b. I have a hold on my account. Should I wait until bidding opens to take care of it?

If you are planning to participate in Round 1 Bidding, you should take care of your hold NOW. Many holds cannot be lifted instantly and will require at least one business day from the time you satisfy the issue that caused the hold to the time the hold is released. If you address the hold on a Friday after hours, do not expect the hold to be removed until the following Tuesday (at the earliest).

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Q: How do I determine what the bidding history has been for a course or a professor?

Links for course bidding history and professor bidding history are on the “detail” web page for each course scheduled for the fall in CAESAR. You will see the same on the submit/change bids web page. In addition, we have posted [bid histories](#).

When reviewing bid histories with waitlist data, keep in mind that the Round 1 bid price represents the cost of the course, which was the LOWEST bid that resulted in a “Good” bid. If there was a waitlist for the class after Round 1, the Round 2 bid price represents the HIGHEST bid used to secure a spot on the waitlist during that round. It does not necessarily indicate a “Good” bid.

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.

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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? How do I search for them?

Q: This question and many others are answered in the [Curricular Advising FAQs](#). You can also search for specific attributes (Perspective Elective, Research Writing, etc.). [Click here](#) to find out how.

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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.

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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.

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

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

A: As much as we love telling people what to do and when to do it, 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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).

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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](#).

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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.

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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.

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