

How Seats Are Assigned In Limited-Enrollment Courses

To assign seats in limited-enrollment (LE) courses the law school uses a computer application written by Law IT. The application works by implementing a set of rules regarding who should be given priority in seat assignment. The rules are as follows:

1. The primary criterion for receiving a seat assignment in an over-subscribed, LE course is a student's proximity to graduation. Thus, graduating seniors always have highest priority. For purposes of this rule, any student who has completed 52 credits will count as a graduating senior.
2. For core and bar classes (as defined by the administration) and some writing intensive (WI), writing intensive optional (WI*), and skills (S) classes offered in the evening (i.e., those which meet after 6 p.m.), part-time students who have completed 52 credits will have priority over full-time students who have completed 52 credits and part-time students who have completed less than 52 credits will have priority over full-time students who have completed less than 52 credits. These designations will be made based on the number of credits earned before the semester begins.
3. A student who has completed 52 credits has two entries into the lottery preference system. This will allow students who enter into multiple lotteried classes to identify which classes are most important to them. A student who has completed under 52 credits has one entry into the lottery preference system. This rule does not change the priority system listed in Rule 2 above.
4. The program is only semester-specific; it does not account for limited-enrollment assignments in prior semesters.
5. After application of the above rule set, the program then assigns all remaining seats in any given course on a strictly random basis. Thus, it is possible that, in any given semester, a student who has completed 52 credits who selects only courses in which there is heavy over-subscription by other students who have completed 52 credits could end up not getting any assignment at all. Application of the above rule set makes this outcome unlikely, but not impossible.
6. If all demand is met for students who have completed 52 credits, and spaces remain in an over-subscribed course, then those vacancies are assigned to students who have not completed 52 credits by applying rules 4-5 above.
7. If ever there are exceptions to the above rules, they are announced in the registration packet. For example, there have occasionally been courses in which, at the instructor's request and with permission of the academic dean, enrollment preference was based upon having taken another course (even though this other course was not listed as a prerequisite). Or, in a small number of instances, an instructor has requested that the enrollment be split among those students who have completed 52 credits and those who have not.