Classes full? New ‘waitlist’ option allows students to monitor in-demand classes

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Starting with upcoming summer classes and moving forward, University of Louisiana at Lafayette students will have access to a much-coveted convenience feature for online registration.

Course waitlists are now an option for students during the registration process. Students can now register themselves on a waitlist for some classes that are full and receive an email when a spot opens. Students will then have 24 hours to fill the vacancy. If a student does not add the course during the 24-hour period, he or she will be removed from the waitlist and the next student on the waitlist will receive an opportunity to fill the spot, with the process repeating until the spot is filled.

The Office of The University Registrar speculated the service will “eliminate the need to repeatedly check the class schedule for open seats.”

“I think it’s a great addition,” said Trinity Jackson, a junior. “I’m just confused as to why all of the classes don’t have them.”

According to The Office of The University Registrar’s website, departments must request course waitlists. Not every class or department is using the waitlist feature, and a list containing all the courses that have the electronic waitlist is “coming soon.” The Office of the University Registrar updates the lists every two minutes to adjust a student’s waitlist position based on the registration activity.

The waitlists are on a first come, first served basis, and they do not guarantee a student a spot in a course. Students can add themselves to the waitlist for closed sections by entering the section’s CRN (course registration number) into the Add Classes Worksheet and selecting “Register” on the worksheet. After entering the CRN(s), students will be prompted to join the waitlist if the class is closed. In addition, failure to meet prerequisite requirements for courses without receiving a permit to override will prevent students from accessing waitlists the same way it prevents students from registering for classes.

The feature provides most students with an opportunity to avoid the familiar process of refreshing the university course registration site constantly to check for open seats. The average UL Lafayette student does not benefit from early scheduling privileges and gets caught in the logjams of the general scheduling period.

“As a basketball manager, I am considered an athlete when I schedule my classes so I never really had a need for a waitlist,” said Ryan Daigle, a sophomore industrial technology major. “I got to schedule my classes on March 26.”

For students like Jackson, who have missed out on courses in the past and are familiar with the typical bedlam of course registration, the waitlists and email notice should help eliminate headaches when trying to monitor openings for popular class sections.

“It’s helpful since I just got into one I was waitlisted in today,” Jackson said.