

HOW DOES LOTTERY REGISTRATION WORK?

HOW TO RANK COURSE CHOICES

When you submit your course selection worksheet in Self-Service Banner, you are not actually registering. You are indicating the classes you want to take in order of preference. Actual enrollment is *not* done on a first-come, first-serve basis; it makes no difference if you were the first or the last person to submit your preferences during the registration period. Once the period for submitting preferences for your group is over, the actual registration is done by a computer program.

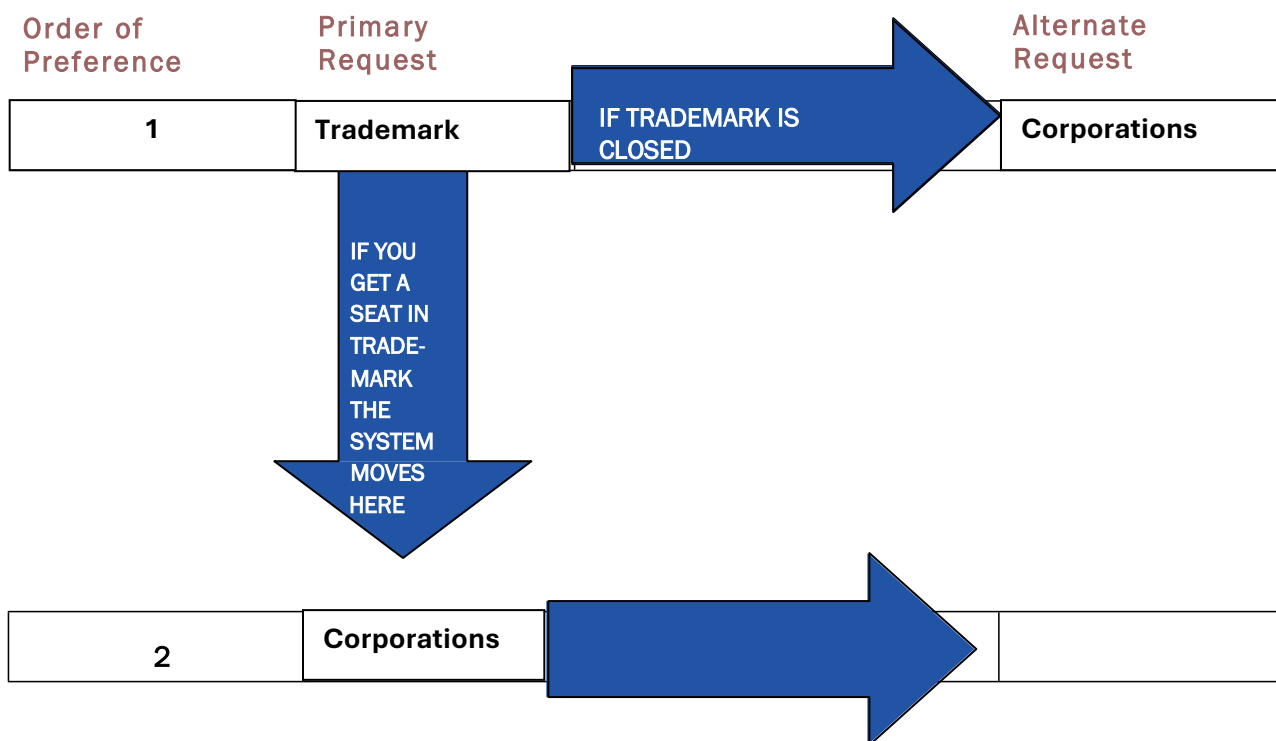
The program begins by going through the submissions one by one, in random order, placing people into their first choice classes. If someone's primary first choice is unavailable, it will turn to the student's alternate first choice. If that is unavailable, it moves on to the next student. The next time through the pile, it will begin with those students, if any, who did not get assigned a course on the previous pass. Note that the computer will only try to register you for an alternate selection if your primary choice is not available.

FOR EXAMPLE:

PRIORITIZED COURSE CHOICES

FIRST CHOICE: TRADEMARK

SECOND CHOICE COURSE: CORPORATIONS



Once the program makes it through every student's first choices and alternative first choice, the process begins again. The computer goes through the class again, signing people up for a second course. It reshuffles the students each time it makes a "pass" through the list of students; however, it will place those who did not get a course choice (either primary or alternate) in the previous round ahead of all those who did.

For most people, most of the time, the right strategy is to put your first choice course in the Primary Choice #1 position and to put your second choice course in *both* the Alternative # 1 position *and* the Primary Choice #2 position. For example, if the course you most want to get into is Real Estate Reporter, and the next most important course to you is Negotiation, you would fill out the form as follows:

Primary Choice #1: Real Estate Reporter	Alternative #1: Negotiation
Primary Choice #2: Negotiation	Alternative #2: 3rd choice course

In this way, if Real Estate Reporter is not available when the program gets to your submission in the first round, it will automatically try to register you for your first alternative, Negotiation. However, if you *do* get in to Real Estate Reporter, then, because you placed Negotiation in the Primary Choice #2 position, the program will try to register you for it during the second round. You may repeat this approach – i.e., putting your third-choice course as Alternate #2 and Primary Choice #3, etc. -- until you run out of courses for which you wish to register.

There are two basic circumstances in which this approach is inappropriate. First, suppose you want to take a particular course that has more than one section; you would rather be in one section than the other, but the key thing is to get that particular course. In this circumstance, you should list one section as your Primary Choice and the other as your Alternate Choice at the same level. Make sure you do not list the same section twice.

Example: You want to take Contract Drafting, but do not care which section, A or B, and you also would like to take Real Estate Reporter and Trademark. In this situation, you would fill out the form as follows:

Primary Choice # 1: Contract Drafting A	Alternative #1: Contract Drafting B
Primary Choice # 2: R.E. Reporter	Alternative #2: Trademark
Primary Choice #3: Trademark	Alternative #3: 4th choice course

The second setting in which you would *not* put your second choice course as both Alternative #1 and Primary #2 is when you are interested in two courses that meet at the same time. For example, suppose you want to take Entertainment Law and Real Estate Finance, which meet at the same time. Your first choice is Entertainment Law, but if you can't get that you would like to take Real Estate Finance. After that, you are interested in Trademark and then Legislation. You would not list Real Estate Finance as your Primary # 2 since, if you get into Entertainment Law you cannot also take Real Estate Finance due to the time conflict, and so, would be wasting your Primary # 2. In these circumstances, you would fill out the form as follows:

Primary Choice # 1: Entertainment Law Alternative #1: Real Estate Finance
Primary Choice # 2: Trademark Alternative #2: Legislation
Primary Choice #3: Legislation Alternative #3: 4th choice course

HELPFUL REMINDERS

- **Put your courses in preference order!**
- **Do NOT list permission only classes** (see the course selection FAQ's document for more on this).
 - Pay attention to the **enrollment caps** listed in the J.D. course lists. Smaller courses are often more likely to fill up than large ones; drafting and simulation courses are generally the hardest classes get into. Large core courses (Corporations, Evidence, Tax, Con Law II, Copyright, Trademark, Crim Pro, etc.) will generally have sufficient spaces.
 - Be sure to double-check your submission for **time conflicts**. This is one of the leading reasons that students end up not registered for a desired course. The computer will not register you for a course that has a time conflict, no matter how small, with another course for which you are already registered.
 - Be sure to check all **pre- and co-requisites** and other limitations listed on the course list. You are responsible for making sure that you have met the requirements for enrollment.
- **Putting the same course and section in multiple primary choice positions will *not* increase your chances of getting the course.** You will either get it or not on the pass through at its highest listing, so repeating it is a waste of your chances for other course preferences.
- If you are registering after the initial 3L/LL.M. registration, be sure to do a class search in Banner Self-Service to see which courses are already closed. If you attempt to register for a course that is already closed, you will, of course, not get in and you will have wasted a chance to get something else.
- You should **list a few extra courses** just in case some of the courses you most want are closed. You will not be registered for more than 14 credits, and you will have the opportunity to drop any “extra” courses during online add/drop. If you do end up being registered for less than 12 credits during lottery registration, you can always add courses during add/drop, but you may have fewer options at that point.

COURSE PLANNING

Before signing into Banner (see below), plan out the courses you want to take:

	Primary Course Name	Number of Credits	Alternate Course Name	Number of Credits
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

*****Remember: during lottery registration, students can only register for 14 credits.** The registration program will stop adding courses from your list once it reaches the point where adding another course would put you over 14 credits.