



Alternate List Explained:

What is the Alternate List?

Applicants interviewing successfully with many programs will put down multiple deposits to hold seats, which makes it impossible for an optometry school to know just how many seats are authentically being held. Applicants typically wait until May 15—when full non-refundable deposits are due—to make their final decisions, which then frees up seats for those waiting on the Alternate List.

When informed that their name has been placed on the Alternate List, applicants get discouraged thinking that they've been denied. Not true. The Alternate List is made up of applicants who have successfully interviewed yet have not qualified for immediate acceptance. Applicants who have qualified for immediate acceptance are those who receive an invitation to join the incoming class within a week of their interview date.

SCCO uses rolling admissions to fill the incoming class. Applications are accepted between July 1 through April 1. Interview season begins in the fall and continues through the spring. As the interview season progresses, those applicants who interview successfully are offered seats in the class.

How does the Alternate List work?

During and until all interviewing is concluded, the Alternate List is populated. When the interview season concludes typically around mid-May, the applicants on the Alternate List are then ranked.

When will I know if I am accepted? How will I be notified?

Applicants waiting on the Alternate List may be pulled from the Alternate List at various times during the entire admissions cycle, continuing through the summer months and even all the way up until Orientation Day.

For all applicants to all programs holding seats, May 15 is the date when non-refundable deposits come due and applicants holding seats must make their final decisions. It is also the date when the second ½ of SCCO's full matriculation deposit is due, and is therefore the date that creates the most activity of pulling from the Alternate List when available vacated seats will then be offered to those on the Alternate List.

Applicants who are pulled from the Alternate List during April and May will typically be notified via the Portal and email. As Orientation Day approaches, we will contact applicants by phone. If you are on the Alternate List, make certain that your contact information is up-to-date.

Why was I placed on the Alternate List?

Applicants are placed on the Alternate List for one of two reasons:

- The applicant interviewed early in the admissions cycle yet did not receive an immediate acceptance because their interview score was average, but not low enough to be denied acceptance.
- The applicant successfully interviewed later in the admissions cycle, and even though they receive favorable interview scores, they are placed on the Alternate List because there are no seats available because all of the original seat invitations have gone out and are being held with reservation deposits by other accepted applicants.

SCCO is my definitely my first choice. How can I make known my willingness to accept a seat at any time?

Because there is a history of drops from the class even into the summer months, applicants who are willing to accept a late-offer seat are encouraged to submit a formal letter of intent expressing his or her desire to at any time join the incoming class. The length and content of the letter are the sole discretion of the applicant. Address the letter to “The Admissions Policy Committee” and attach it as a Word document. Email the letter to: ODadmissions@ketchum.edu.

What if I don't get accepted? Can I reapply?

Should you wish to reapply and seek advice regarding how to make yourself more competitive next season, please email the admissions advisers at ODadmissions@ketchum.edu after the 3rd week of August and request an appointment for a counseling session.

We know this is an anxious time for applicants. If you are on the Alternate List, remember that you have not received a denial and you are still in the running.

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