iBid Frequently Asked Questions

**iBid Functionality**

**Q:** Why can’t I see how many bid points I have?
**A:** When a Phase is not open, you are not able to view your point total.

**Q:** How do I know if my bids were saved or if I was successful?
**A:** During a Phase, click “My Schedule & Current Bids” to confirm your bid has been saved. After results post, click “My Schedule & Current Bids” to view your enrollments.

**Q:** All of the bid boxes have disappeared. What happened?
**A:** One of the following scenarios occurred:

1. A Phase is not open (or the deadline just passed).
2. You have bid all your points. Resolution:
   a. Drop a course (if you will be due points back for the drop – depends on the Phase we are in and if you paid points in the Phase when you added it).
   b. Lower a bid amount on a different course to add points back to your balance.
3. You have bid on and/or are enrolled the total number of courses equal to your allowable maximum. Resolution: Drop a course or drop a bid in order to bid for a different course.

**Q:** I can’t see my bids even though bidding has closed and I have not yet received my results.
**A:** You can’t view your bids after a Phase closes. If you confirmed your bids were saved prior to the deadline, then they were.

**Q:** I am trying to drop a course, but don’t see the Drop button. What’s wrong?
**A:** Is an action Phase open? During a “Results” Phase, you can’t take any actions (bid, add, drop). Wait until the next action Phase opens to conduct the drop.

If an action Phase is open, go to the “Create/Alter Schedule → Bid/Add/Drop to conduct the drop. The drop button is not always available in “My Schedule & Current Bids”.

**Q:** How do I swap a course?
**A:** iBid does not have a swap function across different courses, or a function to allow one bid for a list of course choices (e.g., add any one of these courses”). Options:

- In Phases 2 – 4, drop the section and bid to add the new section. **NOTE:** This action carries risk, as you are not guaranteed to add the section you bid on or to re-add the section you dropped.
- In Phase 5, use the “Change Sections” button to change sections of the same course, if the section you want to swap into is open.
Q: Why is there a “Pending Swaps” section of the My Schedule & Current Bids page, if Swap is not an iBid function?
A: We can’t remove the “Pending Swaps” header and understand it may cause confusion. The Swap Phase functionality does not manage strict prerequisites or allow for Waitlist promotion and therefore Booth isn’t able to use this function.

Course Section Access
Q: Why can’t I see all offerings in Phases 1 and 2?
A: In Phases 1 and 2, offerings are restricted to the home population. Meaning sections are available for bidding to the student population (Full-Time, Evening, Weekend) in which the course is being held.

An exception is: if a course is not offered to a population (Full-Time, Evening, Weekend) in an academic year (Autumn through Summer), then that population has bidding access in all Phases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Offering</th>
<th>Phases 1 – 2</th>
<th>Phases 3 – 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is at least one section of the course offered in each program (Full-Time, Evening, Weekend) this academic year (Autumn through Summer).</td>
<td>• Bid on only your home-program section(s).</td>
<td>All students may bid on all sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-home program section seats are not viewable in iBid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There are multiple sections of the course offered this academic year (Autumn through Summer), but none in my home program.</td>
<td>Seats in the section are open to students in the program(s) where the course is not offered.</td>
<td>All students may bid on all sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is only one section of the course offered this academic year (Autumn through Summer).</td>
<td>All students may bid for the course section.</td>
<td>All students may bid for the course section.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results
Q: I bid on a course, but was unsuccessful. However, I see seats open. Why didn’t I enroll?
A: Drops are processed live and automatically once the next Phase opens. A course can close in a Phase and open in the next Phase if another student drops the course right away.

Q: Why is a course section listed as Closed, but with no price?
A: This is the result of one of two scenarios:
   a. The section closed based on an alternate bidder. Meaning all primary bidders got in, but the course was still open, so alternates could be accommodated.
   b. The section was closed in a previous Phase and no one dropped.

Q: Provide examples of when a course section would close for zero points.
A: • If a section with 65 seats closes with 60 primary bids (and no alternate bids), the course will cost 0 points.
- If a section with 65 seats closes with 60 primary bids and 5 alternate bids, the course will cost 0 points.
- If a section with 65 seats closes with 60 primary bids and 6 alternate bids (with 1 alternate bid left unfulfilled), the course will cost 0 points.
- If a section with 65 seats closes with 65 primary bids (and no additional demand), the course will cost the lowest successful bid (i.e., the 65th bid; since bids must be greater than 0, this scenario will result in a course price).
- If a section with 65 seats closes with 66 primary bids (with 1 primary bid left unfulfilled), the course will cost the lowest successful bid (i.e., the 65th bid; since bids must be greater than 0, this scenario will result in a course price).

Q: What happens in this case: I bid for a course with alternates selected; my primary course was closed, but more than one of the alternates are open – which section would I add?
A: In this scenario, the resolution randomly adds you into an open section.

Q: I bid with an alternate and did not get into my primary course. The alternate had availability, so why didn’t I get the course?
A: In rare situations, you may be unsuccessful in bidding on an alternate section if no one bid on that section as a primary section.

Q: What happens if more than one student bids the same amount for the same section, and the section closes at that price (bid amount) – which student would enroll?
A: In this scenario, the resolution is random. You should bid in unique amounts in order to attempt to avoid tie-breaker situations.

Q: I bid for and got a course and am able to tell that I was the last person to obtain a seat in that Phase (it was Phase 4, and there is no one on the Waitlist). Why did I pay the points I bid – shouldn’t the price be zero?
A: The price is the Lowest Successful Bid, even if there are no unsuccessful bidders.

Q: How does iBid prioritize my bid for course section A versus another student’s bid for the same course, but section B with alternates?
A: iBid considers primary bids first (the section you are entering a bid amount on), regardless of if they include alternates. For example, if I bid for 30000-01 with no alternates and you bid for 30000-01 with “same professor”, our bids for 30000-01 will be considered at the same time and in bid point order.

Using the same example, let’s suppose the same professor teaches section -02. And let’s further suppose that you didn’t bid enough to secure a seat in 30000-01. iBid will process all primary bids for 30000-02. If there are seats remaining (and depending on how many other students also included alternates which would include 30000-02 as a possibility and were unsuccessful in securing a seat in their primary section), then you would be added into section -02.

When bidding with alternates, you must remember that primary bids will always be processed first, even if you really have no preference for sections (i.e., “any section” or “same professor”).
So, if another student bids a lower amount for 30000-02, and you bid a higher amount for 30000-01, with alternates (that include -02), but you are unsuccessful in securing a seat in -01, you may not get a seat in -02. As described above, there need to be available seats in -02, and it depends on how many other alternate bids are being considered for those seats; they are processed in bid point order.

Another example: student A bidding 1 point for 30000-01 with no alternate, and student B bidding 15 points for 30000-02 with alternate “any section”. Student A has priority over student B for section -01, even though the bid is fewer points. Student B’s primary bid is for 30000-02, but will be considered for other sections if his/her bid of 15 points is not high enough to enroll in -02.

Course Price History Report
Use the Course Price History report to determine the price you paid to add a course in a Phase, or to understand why you didn’t add a course in a Phase (i.e., you didn’t bid enough points). You can use the data to reflect upon historical prices to note trends over time or from Phase to Phase.

Notes about the Report:
• The tabbed worksheets within the file are not named, but contain price data for each quarter. Click a tab to see data for a previous quarter.
• The file contains up to 8 quarters of data.