

How to Get Into a Full Class

When a class is full, the presumption is that additional students will dilute the experience for those already signed up, and make the class worse for them. To get in, you have to overcome that presumption by offering evidence that you will contribute more to the class than they will—that your presence will make the class better. Here is the kind of evidence that may help:

1. Read the syllabus and say what you like and dislike. The professor will be so shocked, she'll cave right in.
2. If you are a major, say so.
3. If you have taken similar or relevant classes, name them.
4. If another professor thinks you'll improve the class, name her or him.
5. Say what syllabus items or other essays you have read on your own.
6. If you talk a lot in class or write with facility, say so.
7. If you just need to fill your schedule, keep it to yourself