

# Why Does the Availability Sometimes Seem Wrong in Class Search

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*This article applies to both MJC Class Search and Columbia Class Search.*

Have you noticed sometimes that a class will list available spots, but yet have a waitlist. Why is that? What's really going on?

Let's take a look at CSPCOM-4-4252 as an example.

Name	Section	Title	Important Notes	Instructor	Section #	Location	Type	Times	Days	Max/Avail	Status	Text Books	IGETC/CSU/GEI/CC/GE
CSPCOM-4	4008	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communications</a> 011320-050220		Elzondo, Tim	3	CSUJ 218 Columbia	LEC	9:45A - 11:05A	TTH	30/0	Wait	Books	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4009	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communications</a> 011320-050220	This is an online class.	Elzondo, Tim	3	CONL Online	DLIT	3:30 break	ARR	30/0	Wait	Books	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4225	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communications</a> 011320-050220	This is a video-broadcast class. Students will meet at the Amador Economic Prosperity Center. The instructor will be teaching from Columbia College and live videos of the class will be broadcast to the Center.	Olsen, Jorita	3	CAPC 1 Amador County	LEC	8:00P - 9:05P	TH	10/8	Open	Books	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4252	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communications</a> 011320-050220	This face-to-face course will also be video-broadcasted to students at the Amador Economic Prosperity Center and Calaveras County Office of Education.	Olsen, Jorita	3	CMLP 104 Columbia	LEC	8:00P - 9:05P	TH	15/9	Wait	Books	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4271	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communications</a> 011320-050220	This is a video-broadcast class. Students will meet at the Calaveras County Office of Education. The instructor will be teaching from Columbia College and live video of the class will be broadcast to the Center.	Olsen, Jorita	3	CGOL 1 Calaveras County	LEC	8:00P - 9:05P	TH	10/1	Open	Books	TC.A1

In the above example, we see a max capacity of 15 for the class, an availability of 9, and a waitlist with 7 students.

How can there be an availability when there is a growing waitlist?

What may appear to be an error is actually not. We'll get back to that strange behavior in just a moment. First, let's take a look at how Class Search is designed to work.

Class Search is designed to count down the available spots as students register for the class. Once a class is full, the waitlist will open and as students add to the waitlist those numbers go up. When that happens, the available number usually remains at zero. However, sometimes it does not.

Why is that? Time to get back to that strange behavior from earlier.

If a class is cross-listed with other classes, Class Search is designed to display the total number of available spots that exist across those other cross-listed sections.

Let's look back at our example. It just happens that CSPCOM-4-4252 is also cross listed with CSPCOM-4-4225 and CSPCOM-4-4271 which appear above and below our example class.

[Home for center-friendly version](#)   [Back to Class Search Criteria](#)

### Class Search Results

Results for Columbia Spring 2020 Term

Course location, title, and type codes printed in blue (links) can be clicked for additional information.

Name	Section	Title	Important Notes	Instructor	Location	Type	Times	Days	Max/Avail	Status	Text Books	IGETC/CSU/GE/CC/GE
CSPCOM-4	4006	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communication</a> 01/13/20-05/02/20		<a href="#">Elisondo, Tim</a>	<a href="#">CBUD 211</a> Columbia	LEC	9:40A - 11:05A	TTH	30/0	Wait	<a href="#">Books</a>	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4009	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communication</a> 01/13/20-05/02/20	This is an online class.	<a href="#">Elisondo, Tim</a>	<a href="#">CONL</a> Online	DIST	3:30 hrs/uk	ARR	30/0	Wait	<a href="#">Books</a>	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4225	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communication</a> 01/13/20-05/02/20	This is a video-broadcast class. Students will meet at the <a href="#">Amador Economic Prosperity Center</a> . The instructor will be teaching from Columbia College and live video of the class will be broadcast to the Center.	<a href="#">Olsen, Terita</a>	<a href="#">CAPC 1</a> Amador County	LEC	6:00P - 9:05P	TH	10/8	Open	<a href="#">Books</a>	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4252	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communication</a> 01/13/20-05/02/20	This face-to-face course will also be video-broadcasted to students at the <a href="#">Amador Economic Prosperity Center</a> and <a href="#">Lakers County Office of Education</a> .	<a href="#">Olsen, Terita</a>	<a href="#">CMLP 101</a> Columbia	LEC	6:00P - 9:05P	TH	15/9	Wait	<a href="#">Books</a>	TC.A1
CSPCOM-4	4271	<a href="#">Introduction to Human Communication</a> 01/13/20-05/02/20	This is a video-broadcast class. Students will meet at the <a href="#">Calaveras County Office of Education</a> . The instructor will be teaching from Columbia College and live video of the class will be broadcast to the Center.	<a href="#">Olsen, Terita</a>	<a href="#">CCOE 1</a> Calaveras County	LEC	6:00P - 9:05P	TH	10/1	Open	<a href="#">Books</a>	TC.A1

Notice that section 4225 has an availability of 8. Notice also that section 4271 has an availability of 1. Added together, we can better see where the availability of 9 in section 4252 comes from.

Why does Class Search do this?

Well, this is meant to be an indicator to students that they may be able to find a spot in a different section allowing them to take the class they want. However, this may not always be great news as the alternative sections may be on a day, at a time, or at a location that does not work for the student's schedule.