

Rick has applied to 10 graduate programs. As per the conventional wisdom, he has a few dream schools, several middle range schools, and a few safe schools. After looking very close at all of these, he has put these schools in a 1-10 ranking. On March 12 he is notified that he has been accepted to school number 6 on his list, with a good teaching assistantship, and they give him until April 15 to decide. In this time he gets rejected from a few schools, but hears nothing from most of them. On April 15 he accepts the offer from school number 6 and starts filling out paperwork for them. On April 20 he is notified that he has been accepted by school number 2 on his list, also with a good teaching assistantship. And the reason this offer is so late, he is told, is that this program had a candidate primarily accept and then later decline. Had he been offered this first it would have been an easy decision to accept this one, after all, it's near the top of his list. What should Rick do?

1. Accept the offer from school number 2, and simply inform school number 6 that he will not come there.
2. Call the graduate coordinator at school number 6 and see what they think.
3. Decline the offer from school number 2.
4. Ask around and find out what the conventional procedure is.
5. Wait awhile, maybe school number 1 will come through with an offer!
6. Other?