



A Guide To The *Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI)*

A Practical Guide for Families Navigating Waitlist
Decisions in Highly Selective Admissions



Before You Begin

Although we recognize that it may be disappointing that your application was waitlisted, please note that for many universities this is not a denial. In fact, having your application waitlisted is still a major win. On a fundamental level, it means that the admissions team felt your application was worthy of a spot in the Class of 2030.

So...why *were* you waitlisted?

Because the average student now submits seven applications (many top students submit 10+ applications), it's become increasingly difficult for AOs to accurately predict yield (i.e., which students will ultimately accept their offer).

As a result, waitlists allow admissions offices to manage enrollment carefully after the May 1 commitment deadline. And while not every waitlisted student is ultimately admitted, many colleges do admit students from the waitlist each year, sometimes as late as June or July.

Submitting a thoughtful Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI) can be one of the most important steps students can take to demonstrate enthusiasm and reinforce their candidacy.

This guide explains what a LOCI is, why it matters, and how to approach writing one strategically.



What Is a *Letter of Continued Interest*?

In short: A Letter of Continued Interest, or LOCI, is a brief update sent to a college that has placed you on their waitlist. Its purpose is to reaffirm your interest in the institution and to provide any relevant/meaningful updates since submitting your application.

In many cases, the LOCI helps admissions officers answer an important question:

If a spot becomes available, is this student going to matriculate?

A strong LOCI communicates both continued enthusiasm and continued growth. It reminds the admissions office why you are a strong fit for the institution while demonstrating that you have remained engaged academically and personally during the final months of high school.



Important Note: Always follow the specific instructions in your application portal. Some universities prefer a simple form update in your portal over a formal letter. Read your waitlist letter carefully from start to finish (there is often important information buried halfway through, especially with guarantee transfer options becoming increasingly popular).

A Few Important Principles *to Keep In Mind*

- A waitlist decision is not a denial. Your application was considered competitive within a highly selective application pool.
- Colleges typically do not begin evaluating waitlists until after the May 1 enrollment deadline.
- Students generally have several weeks to prepare and submit a thoughtful update.
- Following each college's specific instructions is essential.

Patience and professionalism are important during this stage of the process.

Recommended Structure For a *Letter of Continued Interest*

A LOCI is typically concise and focused: 3-4 paragraphs, 1 page max.

Most effective LOCI's include the following components:

1. Introduction

Thank the admissions team for a spot on the waitlist and reaffirm that this college is your top choice (i.e., if you offer me a spot in the Class of 2030, I will enroll).

Expressing gratitude that your application was not outright denied is critical. Waitlist offers are not made lightly. If your application wasn't fully qualified, chances are it would have been denied.

2. Updates

Lead with updates on your third quarter/most recent report card, extracurricular activities, any awards won, and projects you've recently completed. Bullet points are acceptable.

Examples of updates include:

- Continued strong academic performance
- New achievements or awards
- Progress in extracurricular activities
- New projects or initiatives
- Additional leadership responsibilities in school clubs

Updates should be substantive and should add new information rather than repeating content already included in the application.

3. Reaffirm Fit

Reaffirm why this college is your top choice with clear examples of clubs you'd join, classes you'd take, and institution-specific initiatives you're excited about (e.g., interdisciplinary institutes, research labs, special campus centers).

Feel free to include impressions from a recent tour, a convo you had with a current student, or an article you may have read in the college's newspaper. Be sure to connect it back to your overall application narrative, including your primary academic interests.

4. Professional Closing

Thank the undergraduate admissions team and re-affirm your intent to enroll, if offered a spot.

Clarity, professionalism, and sincerity are more effective than overly elaborate writing.

Best Practices (*Do's and Dont's*)

Do:

- Provide meaningful, *recent* updates that strengthen your candidacy
- Maintain a clear and professional tone
- Keep the letter concise and focused
- Proofread carefully for clarity and accuracy
- Demonstrate continued academic engagement through the end of senior year
- Stay patient and do not feel pressure to submit your LOCI right after decisions are released. Remember that most selective universities do not decide if they will take students off the waitlist until mid-April (at the earliest). You have at least 2-3 weeks to submit a quality LOCI.

Don't:

- Repeat information already included in your application
- Provide generic reasons for why a college is appealing (e.g., location, class size, school spirit) with no personal or academic connections.
- Include exaggerated or overly emotional language
- Write more than 1.0-1.5 pages
- Send multiple LOCIs to the same college every week in April. If you are hearing about others being accepted and it's at least a week past May 1, you might consider a second update. You don't want to come off as annoying, irritating, or highly anxious. AOs are busy in April and May with admit weekends and evaluating transfer applications.



A Strategic Approach *to Waitlist Decisions*

The waitlist process can feel unpredictable, but it is also an opportunity for you to reinforce the strengths of your original application and why you believe the college is the right match for you.

Students who approach the LOCI thoughtfully often demonstrate maturity, professionalism, and continued enthusiasm for learning. These qualities are consistent with the characteristics colleges seek in their incoming classes.

Because each student's situation is unique, the most effective LOCIs are tailored to the individual applicant and institution.

Families who would like guidance navigating waitlist decisions, crafting a strong LOCI, or understanding how to communicate effectively with admissions offices are welcome to learn more about our Waitlist Assessment [here](#).

We are happy to serve as a resource during this stage of the admissions process!

Admittedly's *Waitlist Assessment Services*

We cut through the noise to give you clear, actionable guidance.



How It Works

1. Submit Materials:

Send your application ahead of time for a comprehensive counselor review

2. Strategize:

Meet 1-on-1 with your counselor to build your waitlist strategy and define exactly what to include in your LOCI based on what admissions officers actually want to see.

3. Draft & Refine:

Draft your LOCI before the end of April and get targeted, no-nonsense feedback from our Essay Specialists.

Why Admittedly?

Our team of former admissions officers from T30 universities and selective liberal arts colleges (SLACs) provides feedback based on direct experience evaluating thousands of applications. We don't rely on guesswork. We know what institutions are looking for, and we're here to help you make your final case with confidence.

Get Started: [ADMITTEDLY.CO/WAITLIST-ASSESSMENT](https://admittedly.co/waitlist-assessment) 