



Letter of Continued Interest (LOCI) Guide *For Deferred Students*

A Practical Guide for Students Navigating
Deferrals in Competitive College Admissions

From The Admittedly Team

Before You Begin

Although we recognize that it may be disappointing that your application was deferred, please note that for many universities this is not a denial.

Deferrals happen for 3 primary reasons: (1) the undergraduate admissions office wants to see more of the applicant pool in the RD round (especially true for Georgetown, MIT, and UMichigan); (2) they need more data on your academic performance and want to see your senior year, first semester grades (true for most Ivy+ schools with ED1/ED2); and (3) they may not be sure that you're the right fit for the university (true for the small liberal arts colleges such as Amherst, Vassar, & Williams).

Accordingly, a quality LOCI should showcase that you've continued to do well academically in your senior year (all As/mostly As); that you're genuinely interested and a match for the university; and that you'd enroll, if admitted. Please also note that some colleges no longer allow LOCIs and they make this explicitly clear (e.g., USC), while others require you to complete a form **once** in their portals (e.g., MIT, Yale, Stanford, UMichigan). **As with everything else in the U.S. highly selective undergraduate admissions process, there is a lot of variance so please follow the directions from the college directly—read your deferral letter carefully.**



3-4 Paragraphs, 1 Page Max

1. Introduction

Thank the admissions team for reevaluating your materials and reaffirm that this college is your top choice (i.e., if you accept my application, I will enroll). Expressing gratitude that your application is still being considered is critical. Deferrals are not made lightly. If your application wasn't in the wheelhouse, chances are it would have been outright denied.

2. Updates since Application Submission

Lead with updates on your first semester grades/mid-year grades, extracurricular activities, any awards won, and projects you've recently completed. Bullet points are acceptable.

3. Why This College is the Right Fit for You

Reaffirm why this school is a good fit. Feel free to include impressions from a recent tour, a convo you had with a current student over the break, 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. Closing

Thank the undergraduate admissions team and re-express gratitude.



The Do's and Dont's

DO:

- Include **recent** information not already on your application. What have you been doing with your senior year? Look through emails and photos for friendly reminders. Chat with your parents who are likely better at remembering your accomplishments, than you are.
- Follow formal writing rules. Check for typos and avoid slang and abbreviations.
- Use a clear, straightforward writing style. Bullets are acceptable. They're easier to digest for most AOs.
- Stay patient! Keep working hard in school, and remember that most students do indeed land and go to college.

DON'T:

- Repeat activities or awards already on your application without updates. Most AOs take notes when reading your application.
- Give generic reasons for wanting to attend (e.g., location, class size, school spirit) with no personal or academic connections.
- Reuse part of an essay you already submitted in your application.
- Write more than 1.5 pages.
- Send multiple LOCIs to the same school within 1 month. If it has been **more than** 6 weeks, you *might* consider a second update. You don't want to come off as annoying, irritating, or highly anxious. AOs are busy in the spring reading and evaluating RD applications primarily.