

# EA College Counseling: WRITING A LETTER OF CONTINUED INTEREST

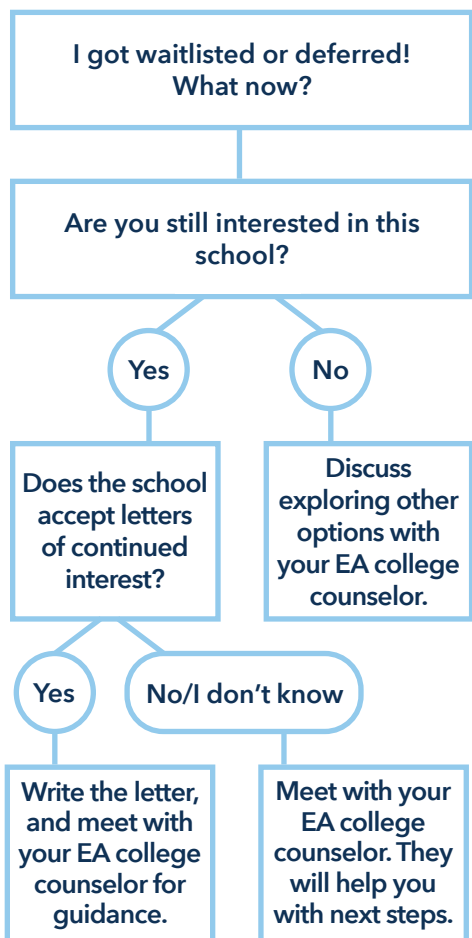


What should you do if your admission decision is deferred or you are given a waitlist decision? If you remain interested in the school, reach out to your college counselor - they are here to help you navigate this! A common response to these admission decisions is to **share your continued interest** with that institution by sending a **well-crafted letter**. *But first, some definitions:*

## defer VS. waitlist

For various reasons, the admission committee may **defer** your application to review again in a later round. They may be seeking additional information on your academic performance (updated grades), they may limit enrollment of early admissions, or they may want to look at your application comparatively in the regular decision pool.

If you are placed on the **waitlist**, following the steps and guidelines the institution shares with you is essential. If you are still very interested in the school and would like to consider it as an option for enrollment, it is crucial to accept your place on the waitlist. This step will likely be completed on your application portal.



## YOUR RESPONSE

If deferred or placed on the waitlist, respond gracefully and follow the school's directions regarding next steps. It is critical you read and carefully follow all instructions from the school if you intend to remain in the application pool. **Not every school will accept a letter of continued interest or additional documents.** If the school accepts a letter, follow directions on the reverse side of this page.

There are generally three options on how to send the letter:



through your  
application portal



in an email to your  
area **admission  
representative**



to the **general  
admission** email  
account

## Why send a letter of continued interest?

It is appropriate and often expected for the student to write the admission committee if admission is deferred from an Early Action or Early Decision round. Similarly, if placed on the waitlist, sending a letter of continued interest to the admission committee might be wise. This letter is what it seems - it expresses your continued interest in the institution and your desire to attend it.

**RIGHT THIS WAY:**  
*draft your letter* →

## WRITING YOUR LETTER OF CONTINUED INTEREST

Remember, a letter of continued interest is your opportunity to highlight why you are **keenly interested in a school** and provide updates on your **academic performance** or **involvement** in the **community**.

Your letter should be:



timely



well-written



succinct



no more than one page

**Include the following in your letter of continued interest:**



### *Letter Components:*

- Thank the admission committee for reevaluating your application and reaffirm your strong interest in the school.
- Provide new information since you submitted your application. This might include a new activity, awards received, new leadership position, published article(s) in the school newspaper or elsewhere, and most recent grades.
- If relevant or true, state that the school is one of your top choices, and why. Be specific.
- If you have visited the school, be specific about what resonated with you.
- Share why you would be a good addition to the community. Do your values align with the school's? Will your leadership, participation in activities, positive risk taking, or academic curiosity be an asset to the community?
- Close with another thank you.

## FINAL TIPS

- Follow directions!** In a timely manner, provide only what the institution asks you to submit.
- In any correspondence, **do not include schools at which you've gained admission**. This is not helpful or appropriate.
- If need-based financial aid or merit aid is critical, you should **clearly indicate this to the admission committee**. While this may affect your final decision, remember this: if the school is unaffordable to you, you should not attend it.
- If deferred or waitlisted by the institution, the letter of continued interest can be helpful, but what is most important is **maintaining your grades and demeanor in school**.
- Spend time on the letter.** Edit and proofread.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

While a **defer** or **waitlist** admission decision is an indication your application will be reviewed again at a later time, it is not guaranteeing you an offer of admission at a later date.

It is always in your best interest to make alternative plans with an institution that has offered you admission. Get excited about that school(s) and move forward. Colleges may keep a student on the waitlist though mid-summer or sometimes later. Decide when it is best for you to finalize your matriculation decision.

## REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!