

Waitlist Information:

If you are waitlisted at a school, the first thing you should do is accept your position on the waitlist. Sometimes, it's difficult to know what to think when you're waitlisted since — while it isn't "as bad as" a rejection, it still leaves a lot of uncertainty with that school, which can be frustrating and discouraging. Here's more information about [What It Means to be Waitlisted](#).

Unless the college specifically says that they do not want you to contact them or send them any additional information, one thing you can do is send them a letter of continued interest to update them on any new developments in your life (if applicable) since you submitted your application and to express that the school remains at the top of your list. Here's more info about [How to Write a Letter of Continued Interest](#).

If you only look at one of these articles, I recommend reading through these [Examples and Critiques of Different Letters of Continued Interest](#) — the good and the not-so-good — to inform how you write your letter.

***Will your letter of continued interest actually improve your chances of getting in?** It might, but it might not. It's important to be realistic — in most cases, the odds of getting off a waitlist are very low and writing a letter of continued interest may not be enough to impact your status through no fault or shortcoming of your own. For one, it's common for a college to fill their entire class by May 1st which means they can't accept students off the waitlist. It's also not unheard of for a college to want to "round out" their class with students from the waitlist based on specific factors. But, if a college does turn to the waitlist, demonstrated interest can matter. If the college that waitlisted you is your top choice, the most you can do is: [Do what these students did in these good letters of continued interest](#). Just remember, this isn't necessarily another opportunity to make a case for your admission by appealing to the emotion of admissions officers like your original college application essays were — this is simply an opportunity to restate your interest by writing a letter that shows you are dedicated, mature, attentive, and very much interested in its programs in itself.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: **You still need to commit to another college by May 1st,** even if you are still holding out hope for the school(s) that waitlisted you (you can always withdraw your commitment to accept an offer of admission from the school that waitlisted you if you are admitted later off of the waitlist).

If you're itching for more information (and if the college doesn't explicitly say that they don't want you to contact them once you are waitlisted), you can always give the admissions office a call to see if you can learn how their waitlist is managed. Are students ranked? How many students got in off the waitlist last year? How much does a student's ability to pay for college factor into a waitlist decision? Etc.