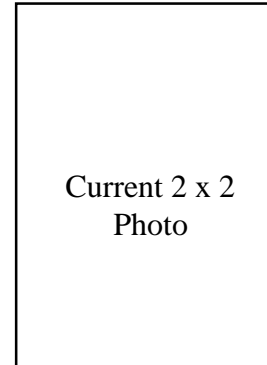


Pre -Health Professions Advising:
Personal Information Form (PIF) for
Messiah Graduates Applying to Medical School

Instructions

The Pre-Health Professions Advising Committee uses this form to gather information for your composite letter of recommendation. Only members of the committee will see this form. It will not be seen by any medical school admissions committee, although portions of it may be used by the committee in your composite letter. The committee is most interested in information that is not revealed by your grades or MCAT scores. This is your chance to demonstrate to the committee your unique qualifications and experiences that make you a strong candidate for medical school. As with all application materials, you should make a copy of this form for your own records. Also, typed, electronic versions of lengthy answers to open-ended PIF should be sent to Martha Smith (msmith@messiah.edu).



I. Personal Information

Name: _____ (include maiden name, if applicable) Graduation Year: _____

E-Mail Address _____ Social Security Number: _____

AMCAS/AACOMAS ID Number and year (if assigned) _____

Advisor's name and department: _____

State in which you are a legal resident: _____ Citizenship: _____

Birth Date _____ Place of Birth _____ First Language _____

List any languages other than English in which you are fluent: _____

II. Contact Information

List the address and telephone number at which you can be reached or reached through.

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

III. Recommendation Letters

List the names and addresses of the people from which the committee will receive letters of recommendation. **Two**

reference letters are mandatory, but **four** are strongly suggested so that the best possible composite letter can be written. Of these references, at least *two* should be from faculty members (at least *one* of these from a Messiah science faculty member – hopefully someone who taught you in an upper level course), and the other two from people who have known you well in the recent past. As a graduate, it is very important that you account for your time between graduation and the time of your application. One way to do this is through the careful selection of post-graduation recommendation letter-writers. Two versions of the reference letters have been requested: an original hard copy that is signed and on letterhead stationary, and an electronic version sent to msmith@messiah.edu. Please note: It is **your** responsibility to make sure that I have received these letters at least one week prior to your committee letter interview. Committee letter interviews are **mandatory** and will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Name and Address

Relationship

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In addition to these letters of recommendation, I will also need a paragraph describing your relationship to your post-graduation letter-writers. Please be as specific as possible, including dates and hours worked, as well as a detailed description of the nature of your work or research, if applicable. The purpose of this information is to enable me to quote from your recommendation letters in a meaningful way. Your comments will provide the framework for the quotation, and in some cases will be quoted verbatim.

IV. Academic Information

An unofficial copy of your transcript from all post-secondary schools attended should be stapled to this packet. Messiah College transcripts can be obtained from the Registrar. Feel free to add additional pages as necessary.

1. *High school*

Name and Location _____

Honors, prizes and noteworthy accomplishments, such as leadership positions, service-learning and cross-cultural experiences. _____

SAT Scores: Math _____; Verbal _____

2. *College Statistics*

Major _____ Minor, if applicable _____

Scholarships (Deans', Provosts, Trustees', etc.) received and relevant details (such as the basis on which you were given the scholarship, how competitive the scholarship was, the duration of the scholarship, academic standards that you had to maintain to continue receiving it, etc.) _____

Honors : Including Honors Program, honor societies, awards for academic excellence, prizes and noteworthy accomplishments.

Research Experience : Describe in detail.

Messiah College Grade Point Average. (To calculate your **Messiah** GPA, multiply the grade equivalent for each course taken at **Messiah** – A=4.0; A- = 3.67; B+ = 3.33; etc.–by the number of credits for that course, sum these numbers and divide by the total number of credits.)

All Grades _____ Science Grades _____(bio, chem, physics and math)

All Post-Secondary (Undergraduate) Instruction Grade Point Average. (This includes AP credits **if** they were counted as credit toward graduation, college-level course work taken while in high school, and the grades from all courses that you completed at both Messiah and every other post-secondary institution through which you received college credit.)

All Grades _____ Science Grades _____

Graduate /Post-Bach Information

Name, Address and Description of Program:

Program GPA: _____ Degree Conferred and Date: _____

Please describe any circumstances that might have affected any of your grades in an adverse way. This might include illness, family circumstances, etc.. If you feel that it would be instructive, include a break-down of your GPA by semester on an attached sheet.

3. *Describe any cross-cultural experiences that you have had and how they have influenced you.* This should not be a description of merely what you did, but also how this experience affected you and/or increased your motivation to practice medicine.

4. *MCAT Scores* (If available.)

Date taken _____ Bio Sci _____ Phys Sci _____ VR _____ WS _____

Date taken _____ Bio sci _____ Phys Sci _____ VR _____ WS _____

Do you plan to re-take them? _____ If so, when? _____

5. *Was any disciplinary action been taken against you at Messiah College?* _____ *If so, describe completely.*

6. *Have you ever been arrested?* _____ *If so, describe completely.*

V. Co-Curricular Activities (This is a very important section and your thoughtful treatment of it is vital. We use this information to distinguish you from other medical school applicants. This section provides the non-numerical information for your committee letter. You should divide your comments into two categories: undergraduate and graduate activities.)

1. *Leadership*. List and describe any leadership position(s) that you have held and how long you held them. What were your responsibilities? How was the organization strengthened/changed by your leadership? What did you learn from the experience that will make you a stronger candidate?

2. *Medically Related Experiences*. Describe any medically related experiences that you have had including, but not limited to, jobs, internships, shadowing and research. Be as specific as possible. Include names, dates, places and hours worked. This might also include any significant illness that you or someone close to you has experienced that has influenced your decision to go to medical school. This is a very important section, especially if you have had an experience since graduation that has galvanized your desire to go to medical school.

3. *Non-Medical Activities* (Clubs, Sports, Travel, Music, etc.) In the space provided list the main activities that you are/were involved in and how long you have participated in them. Do not use abbreviations.

4. *Summer Experiences*. Describe how you spent your summer vacations. Include a detailed reflection of the experience if you will be receiving a recommendation from someone involved with it.

a. Summer after first year.

b. Summer after sophomore year.

c. Summer after junior year.

d. Summer after senior year. (If applicable.)

e. Post-graduation experiences .

5. Tell us five things about yourself that you would like the committee to convey in your composite letter of recommendation. The sky is the limit. Be yourself. Be honest.

VI. Essay

In a thoughtful and organized manner, please write a one page essay entitled **Why I Want to Go To Medical School**. While this essay will not be forwarded to any medical schools, portions of it may be quoted in your composite letter of recommendation and you may eventually choose to use all or part of it in your AMCAS essay. This is your chance to distinguish yourself among the other applicants. Write about what interests you and what excites you about medicine. Use concrete examples. Grab the attention of the reader, be clear in your intentions, and make the reader want to meet you in person. Proper syntax, grammar and punctuation are of paramount importance, so it would be a good idea to have this essay proofread by a few knowledgeable and trusted individuals before submitting it to the committee. An electronic version of this essay should be sent to Martha Smith at msmith@messiah.edu.

VII. Other Details

- Due to the rolling admissions policy of **most** medical schools, it is very important that you submit your AMCAS/AACOMAS application **as early as allowable**, ideally during the first week of May for Osteopathic Medical Schools and the first week of June for Allopathic Medical Schools. If you decide to apply as an early assurance applicant, let me know right away.

- I must have the following materials in my office prior to writing your committee letter:
 - A copy of your AMCAS/AACOMAS application,
 - an official MCAT score report – either electronic or a paper copy of your official score report,
 - at least two recommendation letters,
 - a copy of your transcript(s) that includes grades from all courses taken to date,
 - this completed PIF including an electronic version of your PIF essay, and
 - all required waiver forms.

- The office of Pre-Health Professions Advising is a busy one, and it may take several weeks from the time you register with the Office until your committee letter is finalized by the Pre-Health Professions Advising Committee. It is consequently very important that you begin the process early.