

Messiah Graduate Request for Letter of Recommendation (LOR) for Application to Medical School

Student's Name _____ Class _____

Recommender's Name _____ E-mail _____

Recommender's relationship to you. Please be specific.

Dear Recommender:

Thank you in advance for writing a letter of recommendation to be used in the medical school application for this candidate. Your input, along with that of several other faculty members and co-curricular educators, will be included in a composite letter of recommendation that will be compiled by the Pre-Health Professions Advisory Committee and sent to the medical schools to which this candidate is applying. This candidate has ___/has not ___ waived the right to view the recommendation written in response to this request.

As you probably already know, medical schools are extremely selective and there are several deserving candidates to fill each space. Among students of equal academic backgrounds, admission committees rely heavily on recommendation letters to help to determine which candidates will be interviewed. Your honest, detailed, qualitative description of this candidate will contribute significantly to his/her application.

Please write a letter of recommendation on your letterhead and address it to "Dear Admissions Committee Members". Sign your letter and send the *original*, along with this signed form, to Martha Smith, Coordinator for Pre-Health Professions Advising and an *electronic* version to msmith@messiah.edu as soon as possible. If you are a faculty member, besides a description of academic and intellectual qualities of this candidate, your letter should include information that is not revealed by grades and tests scores, including any truly personal reflections that will bring this candidate into focus and distinguish him/her among the other applicants. Short anecdotes illustrating positive characteristics are helpful.

If you are not a faculty member, your recommendation should include information that reflects how you know the applicant. Once again, short anecdotes illustrating positive characteristics are best. For example, rather than stating that this candidate possesses good leadership skills, it is preferable to describe a situation in which leadership skills were evident. Your personal statements about this candidate should provide enough information that a medical school admissions committee will want to meet this candidate in person. Because scholarship has already been exhibited, it is through recommendation letters that the dedicated and caring nature of the applicant is expressed.

Whether you are a faculty member or co-curricular educator, please address several of the following attributes in your recommendation letter.

- General academic qualities such as: ability to reason logically, quick learner, articulates well what has been learned, critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Personal attributes including leadership skills, integrity, punctuality, reliability, ability to work as a member of a team and high moral character.
- Service to others, those less fortunate or needy, and to the campus and community.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.
Martha S. Smith, Coordinator of Pre-Health Professions Advising
Messiah College
Box 3030
Grantham, Pennsylvania 17027
(717)766-2511, ext. 3936
717.691.6046 Fax

Recommender's Signature _____ Date _____