

Asking For & Collecting LOR

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Letters of Recommendation

- Timeline
- Requirements
- Who to ask
- How to ask
- How to Collect

What do you think med schools want the letter writers to say about you?

Competencies

Service Orientation

Social Skills

Cultural Competence

Teamwork

Oral Communication

Ethical Responsibility

Reliability and Dependability

Resilience & Adaptability

Capacity for Improvement

Critical Thinking

Quantitative Reasoning

Scientific Inquiry

Written Communication

Science Competency

Requirements

- Varies by school
 - Two Science Faculty (Major or Basic)
 - Non-Science Faculty
 - Non-Academic (Health Professional)

AMCAS allows up to 10 LOR.

Can assign specific letters to schools.

Who to Ask?

- Community College OK?
- TAs?
- Science vs. Social Science?
- Someone Left UC Davis?

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>LOR Requirement</u>	<u>Outstanding Pre-Reqs</u>	<u>Curriculum Model</u>	<u>Location Type</u>
UC Davis	3 Min LOR (ANY)	None	Traditional	Urban-ish
Northwestern	2 Science, 1 non-science	Bioethics	Hybrid	Urban (no cars)
NYU	1 science, 1 non-science, 1 non-academic	Anatomy	3 year or Traditional	Urban (no cars)
Hofstra	2 Science, 1 anyone	None	PBL, Early Clinical Experiences	Suburban (car required)
Rush	4 max (Any)	1 Quarter English	Traditional	Rural
William Beaumont	3 Max (Any)	None	Traditional	Suburban

PAY ATTENTION!

- ALL letters need to be signed and on official letterhead.
- NO medical school **REQUIRES** a committee letter.
- **UCD does not offer a committee letter.**

How to Ask

- When the time is right.
- In Person vs Email
- Offer a Packet of Information:
 - Transcripts
 - Resume
 - Personal Statement
 - Summary of Interactions
 - Directions

Dear Dr. Professor:

I don't know if you remember me, but I was in your Physics 7B and 7C course. We spoke a few times after class and during office hours. (I was the snowboarder on crutches for awhile!). I really enjoyed your class because it was the first time I got to think and apply science in a real way.

I ended up earning Bs in both of your classes, but that's not an indication of a lack of interest. Actually, I worked very hard to earn those grades. I worked closely with your TA Jessica, who was such a great help. She witnessed a lot of my growth that quarter. I spent many hours in tutoring, DL and studying in groups, but it was all worth it!

I'm writing to ask if you might consider writing a letter of recommendation for my application to medical school this summer. I think that based on our interactions, you would be the best professor to comment on my ability to persist with difficult material. I also worked very closely with your TA, Ashley, and she mentioned several times that I am a strong problem-solver.

If you are able to do this, you would upload the letter in June when I submit my AMCAS application. I have attached my resume, transcripts and personal statement for your review. I know you are very busy, so I really appreciate your consideration. I look forward to hearing back from you!

Sincerely,
Very Gracious Student

How to Collect

- Interfolio vs Application
- Never in person.

What do you do if you are asked to write your own LOR?

Dear Dr. Professor:

I sincerely appreciate you offering to write a **letter of recommendation** for me. I think based on our time together, you are the best person I could ask who could comment on my strong persistence when faced with challenging material.

When the *AMCAS* application opens up electronically on Monday, **June 1st**, I will enter your information into the system and you should get an email to submit the LOR.

You can submit the LOR as a PDF. I am sure you know this, but medical schools won't accept it unless it is signed and on letterhead.

On the application, I will select to waive my right to read the LOR that you write.

I have attached my resume, transcripts and a draft of a personal statement. Please let me know if you need any additional information from me.

Again, I very much appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Very Gracious Student

LOR Timeline

- Ask anytime, but by March
- May: Application Opens
- June: Application is being verified
- July: Secondaries Complete-LOR
Need to be in by this point.

How to Build Relationships

- Be genuine and authentic.
- Be present and engaged.
- Be impressive.
- Don't be afraid.

Questions?