LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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WHO SHOULD WRITE A LOR?

• Letters should be from faculty **who know you well** and can describe your clinical judgment, fund of knowledge, interpersonal skills and personal qualities

• Specialty vs. non-Specialty Faculty?

• “Famous” vs. non-”Famous” Faculty?

• Senior vs. Junior Faculty?

• Away rotations?

• Others…check with your Career Advisor
WHEN SHOULD YOU REQUEST A LOR?

- Bottom line – the earlier the better

- Be sure to give your writers adequate time (4-6 wks)

- During 3rd or 4th year?

- When during a rotation?

- Plan to have letters in ERAS by September 1st
  - 6 wks (July 21st) 4 wks (August 4th)
HOW TO ASK FOR A LoR

• Ask directly and in person

• Make an appointment – meet face-to-face if possible

• Provide writer with appropriate information about you

• Ensure a strong LoR

• Follow up with request and say “Thank You!”
WHAT INFORMATION DO I PROVIDE MY WRITER?

- You should offer your letter writer
  - a copy of your CV
  - a draft or final copy of your personal statement and
  - a copy of your academic summary

- ERAS Request for Letter of Recommendation Cover Sheet
HOW MANY LETTERS SHOULD I SUBMIT?

• Answer will depend mostly on specialty. Check with your Career Advisor. Most residency programs will ask for 3 to 4 LoRs

• A maximum of 4 LoRs can be sent to any given program in ERAS

• Some require a chairman’s letter

• 2 to 3 letters from chosen specialty

• Check with each individual program to be sure

• You can request extra LoRs
HOW LOR ARE SUBMITTED

• All LoRs will be uploaded using ERAS Letter of Recommendation Portal (LoRP) by your authors or their designee

• Enter your LoR Authors in your MyERAS Application

• You will provide your writer with “Letter of Request Form”
SHOULD I WAIVE MY RIGHTS?

• It is **strongly** recommended that you waive your right to see your LoR.

• Waving your right
  • Your letter is viewed stronger by reader/program
  • Sends message to reader that writer was free to speak openly and honestly without influence
  • Displays confidence that you made a positive impression on the letter writer
ALWAYS SAY “THANK YOU!”

• After you request a LoR, always follow up with an email or letter/note to your writer to say “Thank You” for their time and consideration

• If you worked with them on a rotation, remind them of several cases you saw and describe what you learned

• Describe any particular clinical skills that you feel that you learned or improved on during the rotation

Source: https://webcampus.drexelmed.edu/cdc/medRecomInfo.asp