

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year?
- When during a rotation?
- Plan to have letters in ERAS by September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 6 wks (July 21<sup>st</sup>) 4 wks (August 4<sup>th</sup>)

# 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>