

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of evaluation for a medical school applicant!

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), admissions officers rank letters of recommendation third among the most important pieces of applicant data in determining whom to interview, and often higher than UGPA and MCAT in determining whom to admit to medical school (AAMC Analysis in Brief, 2011; 11(6)).

In addition, admissions officers, when surveyed, were also in agreement as to the usefulness of letters in determining “academic readiness” as well as in the evaluation of certain key personal competencies such as social and interpersonal skills, reliability and dependability, teamwork, integrity and ethics, service orientation, and resilience and adaptability.

While most medical schools do not provide any specific instructions to letter writers, you might wish to review the following guidelines published by the AAMC in the link below to ensure that your letter touches on whichever key competencies you are able to assess and in the context that can be most useful for admissions staff.

<https://www.aamc.org/download/351978/data/letters-printfriendly.pdf>

Again, whether you are writing one letter for a unique individual, or an instructor or advisor who is called upon to write multiple letters for your students each year, your time and service to the WSU student population is deeply appreciated.