2020 Pre-Medical and Dental Letter Service

If you are applying to medical or dental school in the summer of 2020 for a program that begins in fall 2021, please consider using the Pre-Professional Advising Letter Service.

Letters of evaluation are an important part of a competitive application to professional school. When choosing letter writers, consider who knows you well, approach potential letter writers early (around spring break), provide them with all the information they need to write the letter, thank them for their letter, and follow up to let them know the outcome of your application.

Pre-Professional Advising can help you strategize this part of your application if you need assistance.

Benefits to Applicants

- Pre-Professional Advising offers a letter service for applicants to medical or dental school.
- We will collect letters of evaluation and submit a letter packet to the application service (online common application) on your behalf.
- We maintain your letter file for five years in case you need to reapply.
  - If you have your letters submitted directly online by your letter writer, they will be deleted at the end of the application cycle. If you must apply again, you will need to start all over. By keeping them for 5 years, we save you from needing to track down a faculty member who, for example, has left the university.
- We can read your letters. If there is a mistake or other problem (such as the letter writer not signing the letter), we can assist with having that fixed so that it does not reflect poorly on you. Some schools won’t use letters that are not signed.
- It is easier for letter writers.
- It is easy for you.

To sign up for the letter service, complete the Qualtrics Survey https://tinyurl.com/2020PPALetterService

- Once you have completed the survey, Pre-Professional Advising will send you an email that will include a handout to give to your letter writers. Closer to applications opening in May, we will email you instructions you must follow to complete the Letters of Evaluation section of your online application.
- Pre-Professional Advising has created a handout, Requesting Letters of Evaluation, to help guide you through the process of requesting letters that you can pick up in our office if you would find that helpful.
- Note: If you plan to start your program later than fall 2021, do not sign up now!

Applicants to Other Healthcare Programs

If you are an applicant to another health field such as physician assistant, physical therapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, optometry, etc. we cannot collect or submit letters of evaluation on your behalf. These systems require your letter writer fill out an evaluation about you as well as uploading the letter. Follow the directions in your application portal to enter names of letter writers who will submit their letters directly to the portal.

Pre-Professional Advising has created a handout, Requesting Letters of Evaluation, to help guide you through the process of asking for letters and a handout you can give to your letter writers, Pre-Health Letter of Evaluation Writer’s Guide. Email preprofessional@purdue.edu or schedule an appointment with us for a copy of these guides.

Questions

If you have questions about the letter service, schedule an appointment with Amy Terstriep, Cristy Gosney or Cara Hines-Pham at BoilerConnect https://www.purdue.edu/boilerconnect/