Recommendation Letters for Medical School Applicants

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and
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Why is UMC here?

- Mississippi has the fewest MDs per capita and severe healthcare needs
- UMC increasing medical school class size to train more MDs
- Policy to limit applications to Mississippi residents will remain in effect so long as size of applicant pool remains sufficient.
Applicant Yield 2001-2004

\[ \text{[(Applicants/Graduates) x 100]} \]
Biological Science Graduates and Applicants 2001-2004

- Graduates
- Applicants

Graduates and Applicants 2001-2004

MSU
USM
UM

Graduates
Applicants
Biological Science Applicants and Acceptances 2001-2004
MSU Should Be Part of the Solution!

- Graduation rate of MSU alumni attending UMC School of Medicine same as all other schools

- MSU has
  - Large student body
  - Strong science & engineering programs
  - Prerequisites offered at multiple times
  - New pre-professional advising office
How can MSU faculty help?

- Encourage students who seek careers in medicine
- Know what UMC seeks in applicants
- Send prospective applicants to counseling
  - MSU Preprofessional Advising Office
  - UMC School of Medicine Admissions Office
- Write effective evaluation letters
UMC seeks applicants...

- Committed to studying and training to become healthcare providers
  - All majors welcome, including non-science
  - Average 26 degrees in each entering class
- Core science and math requirements
  - Biology I and II
  - General Chemistry I and II
  - Organic Chemistry I and II
  - Physics I and II
  - [Algebra and Trigonometry] or Calculus I
UMC seeks applicants...

- Willing to learn how to take and prepare for standardized tests [MCAT]

- With personal experience interacting with people in the context of:
  - Medicine/health-related activities
  - Volunteer work/community service
  - Leadership/responsibility
UMC seeks applicants...

- With personal attributes and communication skills that will enable effective and compassionate delivery of healthcare
- Students who exhibit professional behavior
Professionalism

- Applies to
  - Applicants
  - Students (UMC Professionalism Policy 2/2005)
  - Residents (growing concern nationally)
  - Physicians

- Past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior
Professionalism

- **Altruism:** unselfish regard for the welfare of others

- **Accountability:** obligation or willingness to accept responsibility

- **Excellence:** exceeds ordinary expectations
Professionalism

- **Duty:** fulfills obligations

- **Honor and integrity:** firm adherence to a code of ethical conduct

- **Respect for others:** respect or deference to feelings and beliefs of others
Faculty Evaluation Letters

- Indicate course(s) taught but no need to provide content, grades, class rank, etc.

- Describe effort student made, especially to overcome unsatisfactory performance

- Evaluate student’s professionalism
Submission of Letters

- Do not send to UMC
- Applicant provides author Letter Request Form with tracking information
- Submit electronically:
  - AMCAS Letter Writer Application [LWA]
    [http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/faq/amcasletterwriter.htm](http://www.aamc.org/students/amcas/faq/amcasletterwriter.htm)
  - Virtual Evals
  - Interfolio
- Option to submit hard copy to
  - AMCAS
- UMC Premedical Faculty Evaluation Form available
Confidentiality

- Federal Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) provides student, but not applicant, access to files
- Previous hard/electronic copies of letters have been purged
- Electronic letters purged annually; new letters required each application cycle
UMC seeks faculty evaluation letters for medical school applicants that evaluate:

- Academic effort
- Professionalism

An evaluation may or may not be a recommendation!
Contact Information

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