THE MEDICAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (MSPE)

(DEAN’S LETTER)

The MSPE is prepared for all senior students by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. The document is a key part of the residency application packet.

If, for any reason, a student believes that the Associate Dean for Student Affairs cannot prepare the letter in an unbiased manner, he or she may request that the letter be completed by another member of the Dean’s Office.

The document is a letter of evaluation, not a letter of recommendation. That is, it is intended to be a comprehensive summary of the student’s academic record through the first three years of medical school. It is intended to present the student in the best possible light but also to convey accurate information to a residency program director about the student’s qualifications for graduate medical education.

The MSPE is specialty-neutral.

The letter is divided into the following sections:

Name and AAMC identification number
Noteworthy Characteristics – summarizes the student’s three most important accomplishments
Academic History
  Date of matriculation
  Leave of absence, if applicable (personal, medical, or educational)
  Adverse academic action such as repeating a course or repeating a year of school
  Date of graduation
Academic Progress
  Performance in preclinical curriculum
  Performance in clinical clerkships
    • Narrative comments
    • Score on written examination
    • Score on oral or practical examination, if applicable
  Performance on USMLE Step 1 and 2
  Unique honors such as election to AOA or the Chapman Humanism Society
Summary

Strengths

Relative weaknesses

“Bottom line” rating in comparison to classmates –
  Upper quartile
  Second quartile
  Third quartile
  Fourth quartile

Students have the opportunity to review the MSPE for factual accuracy.

All MSPEs are transmitted on October 1 of each academic year.

Patrick Duff, M.D.
June 2017