

MSPE: Dean's Letter

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.

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