Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Letters of recommendation can now be submitted through AMCAS and this is the preferred method. You may also utilize Virtual Eval and Interfolio. We accept letters by mail. Hard copies do take longer to process, so please keep this in mind. Below you will see the requirements for letters of recommendation to the VCU School of Medicine. All letters must come directly from the recommender. Emailed letters will not be filed in the application.

1. If your school has an established pre-medical committee, your letter must come from them. The Admissions Committee policy is that students who attend schools that have formal pre-med advisors or pre-med committee must have a letter from that advisor or committee. Failure to provide this letter can be considered grounds for not pursuing the file further or for evaluating the candidate as less competitive than others. The committee believes those students whose undergraduate institution provides such a service is better able to evaluate the candidate in the context of that schools entire applicant pool. They also believe that students who have not availed themselves of the service may be less well prepared for medical education than those who have participated.

2. If you are not using a pre-medical committee, we require three letters of recommendation. The committee is interested in comments about your academics, about your skills as a participating member of the class and about your personal interactions with supervisors.

   The purpose of the letters is to give the Admissions Committee the assessment of someone who may have excellent knowledge about you. Their letter should discuss your personal attributes. Letters are most frequently from faculty in the sciences, former employers, research mentors, academic advisors, shadowed physically or other health care providers and volunteer managers.

3. **Information for Non-Traditional Candidates:** If you have done graduate work since graduating from undergraduate school, it is extremely important to include a letter from the program director, your advisor or a faculty member who taught you in your graduate program.
If you have been out of undergraduate school long enough that you do not know faculty or the pre-med advisor, you may submit 3 letters as described in (2.)

**Information for MD/PhD Candidates:** In addition to the three letters of recommendation of pre-medical committee packet requirement, the MD/PhD candidates must also submit a MD/PhD reference letter using the format provided on the Instructions/Form page. The form must be completed by a person who is familiar with your research background and experiences.