

Committee Letters of Evaluation

Marist College Pre-Health Professions Committee

Most medical, dental, and veterinary schools ask undergraduate institutions to formally review and evaluate the undergraduate performance/record of candidates from that school, and to consider their ability, aptitude, and qualities of character as they relate to pursuing a career in the health professions. At Marist College, the Pre-Health Professions Committee is responsible for this review as well as for providing students with valuable feedback during the process of applying. The Committee operates on a philosophy of attempting to make an informed judgment about a student's potential for success in medical or other health professions schools and as a health professional. We do not act, however, as an admissions committee.

Students submit materials and undergo an interview near the end of Junior Year. The Committee, composed of faculty members with heavy enrollments of pre-health students in their classes, meets several times during and after the Spring semester to evaluate candidates for health professional schools for the subsequent year.

Most medical schools expect a “composite” (or “summary”) letter of evaluation from the applicant's Pre-Health Professions Committee. The letter of evaluation written by the Committee is a composite of all the information available about you, including instructor evaluations, academic standing, medical and volunteer experience, and personal qualities which may make you a particularly strong candidate. While the letter of evaluation will primarily reflect your work at Marist College, letters from sources outside the College will be integrated into the Committee's evaluation and be copied and attached to the Committee letter. If a student applies independently of the Committee, then the professional schools may question why the applicant chose to by-pass the Committee. In order for the Pre-Health Professions Committee to write a letter on your behalf, you must have:

- made regular contact with the Advisor to the Health Professions throughout all your years at Marist.
- completed your application file by March 1 of the Junior Year, as described in the document titled “[The Application Process](#).” This includes obtaining individual letters of evaluation.
- completed an interview with the Committee (after your file is complete). These interviews are usually scheduled in April-June of your Junior Year.

The Committee will meet after submission of Spring semester grades in the student's Junior Year to consider the potential applicants who seek evaluations. Each student will be rated in one of the following categories, which will be explained in an attachment to the letter:

- **Most Highly Recommended:** An exceptional applicant who possesses an excellent academic record, outstanding personal attributes, and a strong commitment to learning.
- **Highly Recommended:** An applicant who has a very good academic record, strong personal attributes, and high motivation.
- **Recommended:** An applicant deemed intellectually and emotionally capable of doing the work required in professional school.
- **Recommended with Reservation:** An applicant capable of doing the work but who may require assistance due to special circumstances.
- **Not Recommended:** An applicant not assigned to any of the above categories due to shortcomings on either academic or personal grounds.

Criteria for Evaluation & Rating

In evaluating a student's record for the composite letter of evaluation and the rating, the Committee attempts to parallel the criteria of medical and health professions schools. Our primary consideration is the student's academic record (GPA, both overall and in math/science; trends in the GPA; academic course load; motivation and demonstrated commitment). The evaluation and rating also considers a number of additional interrelated factors such as initiative, experience in and commitment to health care, personality, and any unusual or extenuating circumstances that may have affected academic performance or may have placed additional demands on the student.