

MARIST

Committee Letters of Evaluation Marist College Pre-Health Professions Committee

Most medical and dental 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 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 the academic year of their application year (most often the end of their junior year). The Health Professions Committee meets several times during the year to evaluate candidates for health professional schools.

Most medical and dental schools expect a composite letter of evaluation from the applicant's 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. Letters are then written by individual faculty members and then edited and approved by the committee as a whole. Once the letter is written, the Advisor to the Health Professions sends the letter out with copies of all supporting letters.

In order for the Health Professions Committee to write a letter on a student's behalf:

1. All paperwork must be completed and submitted by the posted deadlines
 - a. Letters of Recommendation – March 1 of application year
 - b. Self Assessment – February 1 of application year
 - c. Draft of Official Personal Statement – March 1 of application year
 - i. Final Draft is due June 1
 - d. Math and Science GPA worksheet – March 1 of application year
 - e. All transcripts from outside institutions – March 1 of application year
 - f. MCAT and AMCAS and/or AACOM application – July 31 of application year (although earlier is better) – September 30 for podiatry applicants.

2. The student's Marist cumulative GPA must be at least a 3.2
 - a. It will be up to the discretion of the Health Professions Committee to consider writing a letter if the cumulative GPA is less than 3.2
 - i. Important Note: a 3.2 GPA is not competitive for most health professions schools (especially medical, dental, veterinary and PA schools) in the United States.
3. The student's Math and Science GPA must be at least a 3.2
 - a. It will be up to the discretion of the Advisor to the Health Professions and the Health Professions Committee to consider writing a letter if the math and science GPA is less than 3.2
 - b. There is a worksheet that will allow you to calculate this GPA – completing this worksheet and giving it to the Advisor to the Health Professions is required (help in completing the form is available from the advisor if desired)
 - i. Important Note: a 3.2 GPA is not competitive for most health professions schools (especially medical, dental, veterinary and PA schools) in the United States.
4. The student cannot get less than a C at any time in any traditionally required pre-medical, pre-dental, pre-vet course (Gen Chem, Organic Chem, Gen Bio, Physics)
 - a. It will be up to the discretion of the Health Professions Committee to consider writing a letter if a course was retaken and a grade of better than C was earned
5. The student must have attended all mandatory pre-health meetings and meet regularly with the Advisor to the Health Professions
 - a. Fall informational meeting during the fall of the application year
 - b. Spring review appointment during the spring of the application year
6. Students must complete applications and take the MCAT or DAT before July 31 of the year of application
 - a. It will be up to the discretion of the Advisor to the Health Professions and the Health Profession Committee to consider writing a letter if the deadline is not met
 - b. **It is in your best interest to take the MCAT or DAT and complete the application as close to June 1 as possible.**

Each student requesting a committee letter will be rated in one of the following categories:

- **Most Highly Recommended:** An exceptional applicant who possesses an excellent academic record, outstanding personal attributes, and a strong commitment to learning.
 - Students who receive this rating tend to have at least a 3.6 GPA (overall and math/science), are in the top 5-10 % of their class, have consistently shown motivation and positive attitude, have taken challenging courses beyond the requirements, have experience beyond the minimally required internships, have other experiences that show that they are committed to helping others, have significant involvement in campus activities and clubs, and have strong letters of recommendation from medical and/or dental professionals and Marist Science faculty.
- **Highly Recommended:** An applicant who has a very good academic record, strong personal attributes, and high motivation.
 - Students who receive this rating tend to have at least a 3.5 GPA (overall and math/science), are in the top 10-15 % of their class, have consistently shown motivation and positive attitude, have taken challenging courses beyond the requirements, have experience beyond the minimally required internships, have other experiences that show that they are committed to helping others and/or involvement in campus activities and clubs, and have strong letters of recommendation from medical and/or dental professionals and Marist Science faculty.
- **Recommended:** An applicant deemed intellectually and emotionally capable of doing the work required in professional school.
 - Students who receive this rating tend to have at least a 3.4 GPA (overall and math/science), are in the top 15-25 % of their class, have consistently shown motivation and positive attitude, have taken some challenging courses beyond the requirements, might have experience beyond the minimally required internships, might have other experiences that show that they are committed to helping others and/or involvement in campus activities and clubs, and have good letters of recommendation from medical and/or dental professionals and Marist Science faculty.
- **Recommended with Reservation:** An applicant is probably capable of doing the work but may require assistance due to special circumstances. The student has shown a history of academic struggle but not failure.
 - Students who receive this rating have at least a 3.2 GPA (overall and math/science), have shown motivation and positive attitude, may have taken challenging courses beyond the requirements, might have experience beyond the minimally required internships, might have other experiences that show that they are committed to helping others and/or involvement in campus activities and clubs, and have letters of recommendation from medical and/or dental professionals and Marist Science faculty.
- **Not Recommended:** An applicant not assigned to any of the above categories due to shortcomings on either academic or personal grounds. In the case of “Not Recommended,” a letter will not be written on behalf of the student.

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 personal and academic integrity, 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.