



Cornell University

Health Careers Evaluation Committee

210 Barnes Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-1601
t. 607.255.0546
hcec@cornell.edu
career.cornell.edu

Dear _____:
(name of recommender)

Schools of human medicine are interested in candidates who demonstrate professionalism, humanitarian personal traits and academic excellence. Here are some guidelines for a useful letter of recommendation.

Extent of your relationship with the applicant:

- ✓ Length of time known
- ✓ Depth of knowledge about the applicant

Non-academic attributes:

- ✓ Integrity: ethics, honesty, social responsibility
- ✓ Service orientation: altruism, sensitivity, responsiveness to needs of others
- ✓ Professionalism: reliability, dependability, cultural competence
- ✓ Social and interpersonal skills: teamwork, independence, leadership
- ✓ Personal qualities: compassion, resilience, adaptability, self-reliance, sense of humor, stamina
- ✓ Fit with and understanding of a career in human medicine

Academic competencies:

- ✓ Desire to learn: intellectual curiosity
- ✓ Distinctive contributions to an academic enterprise
- ✓ Attitude toward course activities in and outside of class
- ✓ Writing skills
- ✓ Group or teamwork skills
- ✓ Research competencies
- ✓ Overall academic excellence and ability, particularly if at variance with academic performance

Your conclusion/overall recommendation:

Letters of recommendation are a critical component of the admissions process for applicants to professional schools of human medicine. The Health Careers Evaluation Committee often quotes directly from your letter when preparing the narrative evaluation of each applicant. We use your comments to illustrate the impressions we otherwise draw from applicants' written materials.

Please submit your letter on official letterhead, dated, and signed. Your letter will be attached to the HCEC letter of evaluation and sent through secure electronic transmission to the medical or dental school application service(s).

Thank you for writing on behalf of this applicant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian F. Chabot".

Brian F. Chabot Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

Chair, Health Careers Program Advisory Board

HCEC Letters of Recommendation (LoRs) Submission Directions and FERPA Waiver

LoRs must be on **letterhead, dated, and signed** by the writer, as required by medical school admissions offices.

How to submit the LoR and this form: The HCEC prefers to receive the LoR electronically as a scanned .pdf document (not .jpg) via the Cornell Drop Box (<https://dropbox.cornell.edu>). This page, including the signed FERPA intent form below, may accompany the letter or be sent separately through the mail.

- Cornell faculty or staff members: Please log in to the Cornell DropBox using your Cornell NetID and password. Upload the letter to the HCEC Records Coordinator, Jeremy Richards. Type jmr379 (use lower case letters) into the Send File(s) box.
- Those unaffiliated with Cornell: Please call or email the HCEC Records Coordinator at (607-255-0546 or hcec@cornell.edu) to be granted Cornell DropBox access.
- To send a scanned letter to the HCEC directly via email as an attachment, first notify the HCEC Records Coordinator by phone (607-255-0546) or email (hcec@cornell.edu) to authenticate authorship of the letter.
- To send a hard copy of a letter to the HCEC via postal service or campus mail, please use this address:
HCEC Records Coordinator, 210 Barnes Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-1601
- In addition, the HCEC recommends, but does not require, that applicants also have a copy of their letter sent electronically to a third party credentials service: www.interfolio.com. Ask the applicant for information and instructions.

Letter writer contact information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Due date: Applicant and writer agree that this letter will be submitted by (enter date): _____

Note: For **undergraduates** applying through HCEC, the letter due date is **March 6, 2015**.

FERPA Intent Form

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) provides individuals the right to review their education records, which include letters of recommendation. Each applicant has the option to waive his/her FERPA right to view a letter of recommendation.

To be completed by the applicant:

The HCEC will assume that the applicant has retained FERPA rights to view this letter unless this form is **signed** by the applicant and **returned** to the HCEC.

Applicant name, printed: _____

I hereby **waive** my right, under FERPA, to access this letter. (Signature required)

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

I **do not waive** my right, under FERPA, to access this letter. (No signature required)