

MEDICAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2018-2019

The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) is a summary letter intended to provide residency program directors an honest and objective summary of a student's salient experiences, attributes, and academic performance in medical school. The MSPE is a summary letter of evaluation, not a letter of recommendation; and is a required component of the residency application. The School of Medicine prepares MSPEs for all students in their final year of medical school regardless of the student's residency application plans. MSPEs are prepared in accordance with the [AAMC's guidelines](#). ERAS releases MSPEs to residency programs on October 1; this is a nationwide deadline (including early matches).

The MSPE timelines included in this document have been created based on an agreement between Dr. Servis and Denise to ensure that all MSPEs will be complete, accurate, and submitted promptly to ERAS for everyone. Anything submitted after the due dates listed (MSPE deadlines as well as ERAS related deadlines like transcripts) will be set aside until we've had the opportunity to build everyone's MSPE letter. Once all letters are complete, and if there is time to modify or add late requests, we will do so on a first come, first served basis.

ANATOMY OF AN MSPE:

On the [Residency Resources](#) website, you can view a blank example of what an MSPE will look like, and an annotated MSPE example to explain the components that go into it.

MSPEs include the following six sections:

- Identifying Information: Your legal name, year in school, name & location of the medical school.
- Noteworthy Characteristics: A brief description (three bullet points) of achievements, activities, or other personal information. The student writes this section. Due June 30th
- Academic History: Matriculation date, expected graduation date, extensions or breaks in educational program.
- Academic Progress: Summary evaluation comments from clerkships, primary care continuity clinic (if applicable), and Doctoring.
- Summary: A summative assessment of the student's comparative performance in medical school, including the student's "ranking" (see ranking guidelines below)
- Medical School Information: A link to the school for more information.

NOTEWORTHY CHARACTERISTICS

Work on this now. Due June 30th.

Please email Denise (danelson@ucdavis.edu) your noteworthy characteristics to be included in your MSPE no later than June 30th.

Criteria:

- Please provide a **maximum of three** characteristics highlighting the most salient and noteworthy.
- Send as a bulleted list.
- Describe each characteristic in two sentences or less.

Here are some ideas/examples:

- During her second year, (First Last Name) served as a Co-Director of the Paul Hom Student Run Clinic and helped secure a \$50,000 grant from the Susan Komen foundation for breast cancer screening.
- “(First Last Name) passed her USMLE Step 1 examination two months after the death of her mother in a motor vehicle accident.”
- “(First Last Name) gave birth to a son this past August. She successfully completed all her M3 clinical rotations on time, spent the month of August on a pre-arranged research rotation, and commenced her Emergency Medicine rotation in mid-September.”
- “(First Last Name) began has been conducting research with Myrna Loy, MD, PhD, on the subject of epigenetic factors influencing childhood obesity since the end of his first year of medical school. This research has resulted in a series of publications including one with him as first author in the journal Lancet.”
- “(First Last Name) is the first member of his family to graduate from college.”
- (First Last Name) was selected to join the San Joaquin Valley PRIME innovative training program focused on meeting the needs of California’s underserved populations, strengthening the recruitment and retention of new physicians and increase access to equitable health care in the San Joaquin Valley.
- (First Last Name) was recently bestowed the honor of being elected to membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society.
- (First Last Name) had the opportunity to take a fourth year clinical elective; receiving an Honors grade for (Course Name).

Quoted examples taken from “Recommendations for Revising the Medical Student Performance Evaluation” from the AAMC

Feel free to reach out to your Student Advisors Sarah Arsenoff (sarsenoff@ucdavis.edu) and Woubejig Shiferaw (wshiferaw@ucdavis.edu) if you want to review your characteristics before submitting. Your specialty advisor would be another great resource!

ACADEMIC PROGRESS (CLERKSHIP SUMMARIES):

Review this now. Due June 30th.

All summary evaluation comments from the clerkships, primary care continuity clinic, and Doctoring completed through spring quarter are included in the MSPE. Summary evaluation comments are edited for grammar in the MSPE, but not for content. The only reason to modify the content is due to an error/inaccuracy. Please review your grade reports for accuracy in the comment section as well as the grade listed. If there is an error, you need to contact the clerkship IOR. Revisions to grades or summary comments must be edited by the department that completed it. The grade report needs to be officially updated in order to update your MSPE.

Please do not wait until the last minute to look at these summaries; if you wait until you receive your MSPE draft to review, it will be **too late** to make a change. If you do need to have an error modified, please have this complete by June 30th.

I will pull your clerkship evaluation summaries (and Doctoring) **verbatim** from the following sections:

- Primary Care: "General Comments"
- Internal Medicine: "Summative Comments"
- Pediatrics: "Overall Summative Comments" (Sometimes the IOR includes "Formative comments" at the bottom of the "Overall Summative Comments". Formative comments will NOT be included.)

- Obstetrics and Gynecology: "Summary of Student Performance"
- Surgery: "Summary of Student Performance"
- Psychiatry: "Instructor of Record Summary"
- Primary Care Continuity Clinic: "Instructor of Record Summary"
- Doctoring 3: "Summative evaluation - This should be a global summary of the student's performance in the course. Comments may be used in MSPE summaries"

Clerkship Deferrals:

If your clerkship is not complete while we write your MSPE, we will put in a sentence stating that the clerkship was deferred. If the clerkship and final evaluation are ready before the MSPEs are complete and released, we will replace the sentence in the letter.

Please Note:

- These categories are the ONLY rotations included in your MSPE letter.
- Formative comments will not be included in the MSPE. Only the IOR's summative comments will be included. The individual faculty's summative comments will also NOT be included.
- If you are unsure of where to locate your clerkship grade reports, please contact the clerkship course coordinator.
- If you failed a clerkship and then passed it, I will use the latter passing grade report.
- You will have an opportunity to review the MSPE letter before it's uploaded to ERAS.
- Your MSPE will not be uploaded by the time you submit your ERAS application on September 15th. Residency programs know that the MSPE will be released on October 1st.
- Once you graduate, your MSPE is locked in time. Your record for life. If you've already graduated and want to re-apply through ERAS, I can email you the MSPE letter generated the year you graduated. The only caveat to this rule is if you deferred a clerkship and the clerkship was not included when the MSPE was completed. At this point, we could add an addendum including the clerkship comments.
- If a student deferred graduation, their MSPE was not written with their class. The MSPE will be written (as well as the ranking calculated) with the class they will be graduating with.

MSPE RANKING GUIDELINES:

History:

All US medical school graduates receive a final letter that is part of their application packet for a residency position. In the past there was no structure to this letter and there was tremendous variation from one medical school to another. Some were incredibly brief, some were incredibly lengthy, and there was no consistency as to the content or style. Some were written like a letter of recommendation and others were a summary of academic performance. This became a problem as residency program directors across the country complained about the lack of consistency and that the dean's letter was becoming worthless. In 2000, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) put together an advisory committee to address these concerns. Two years later they issued a report designed to standardize the dean's letter, which then became renamed as the MSPE (medical student performance evaluation).

The key themes were as follows:

1. That there was consistency in style and content across all US Medical Schools. This led to the specific structure of all MSPEs.
2. That the purpose of the letter was to act as an evaluation of performance rather than a letter of recommendation.
3. That comparative performance information be provided ("based on the school's evaluation system, of the student's comparative performance in medical school relative to his/her peers").

UCD/MSPE Ranking Method:

Our ranking system for the MSPE is solely based on performance in the 3rd year clerkships. We will not use USMLE results or AOA designation as part of this ranking. The program director already has separate access to the USMLE scores and AOA status.

We will include 4 ranking groups.

Group 1: designated as "outstanding" will be for those students with 3 or more honors in the 3rd year clerkships.

Group 2: designated as "excellent" will be for those students with 1 or 2 honors in the 3rd year clerkships.

Group 3: designated as "very good" will be for those students who have passed all 3rd year clerkships on the initial try. Failing one shelf exam with a successful repeat of the shelf exam will allow a student to be in this group.

Group 4: designated as "good" will be for those students who have failed a 3rd year clerkship on clinical grounds or failed two or more shelf examinations.

Please note: the Primary Care Continuity Clinic will be included in the ranking. Doctoring is not included in the ranking.

LETTERS OF DISTINCTION:

Due June 30th.

If you received a letter of distinction, we will add it to your MSPE under "Academic Progress". There is no centralized list for the letters of distinction for us to pull from. The Registrars' office has some letters of distinction on file. Denise will email you any letters found on file from the Registrars' office. If you have a letter that is not included in the email, please reply and attach a copy of the missing letter you would like included. A peer support letter does not count as a letter of distinction and letters of distinction do not show on your transcript.

COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Q: I am applying in an early match specialty. Will my MSPE be sent earlier to programs?

A: MSPEs are sent on October 1st regardless of specialty. October 1st is the national release date for MSPEs, and programs will not expect your MSPE before then

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions, please contact:

Denise Nelson

Residency Application & Elective Administrator

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