

Student Instructions for MSPE “Noteworthy Characteristics” list

The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) is an objective evaluation of a student’s performance throughout medical school. The letters are prepared, with your input, by faculty and professional staff from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Once finalized, the letters are then uploaded into ERAS by the School and are released nationally by ERAS on October 1.

The AAMC, who has determined the format of the MSPE, revised the letter for this year. One major change includes converting the “Unique Characteristics” paragraph to the “Noteworthy Characteristics” bulleted list. (See samples below).

For this newly-formatted MSPE, you are being asked to prepare a draft of this “Noteworthy Characteristics” list, which is limited to 3-bullets. This section provides you an opportunity to highlight what you believe are your most unique and important characteristics. You should prepare your draft bullets and bring the list with you, along with your reviewed CV, to your MSPE appointment. You will review the list with your MSPE writer at your interview.

Here are some tips to help you prepare your ‘Noteworthy Characteristics’ list (Limit --3 bullet points):

1. Write in 3rd person past tense (s/he did that or (your name) did that, NOT I am (s/he is) doing this nor I did that).
2. Include only information from your time here in medical school, UNLESS there is an exceptionally prominent award or academic scholarship in your undergraduate career that on the level of a Rhodes Scholar. Do NOT include any activities, service, or research from your undergraduate years UNLESS it meets the previous criteria listed
3. What to include in your Noteworthy Characteristics:
 - a. Any leadership positions you have held in medical school
 - b. Honors or awards you received in medical school and what were they for
 - c. Research you have done while in medical school. Published papers, written abstracts, presented at meetings?
 - d. Service to college/institution and community
 - e. Student interest groups were you have actively been involved in during medical school;
 - f. Hobbies
 - g. Please do NOT include AHEC experiences in your paragraph (unless it evolved into something more AFTER the two required weeks.)
4. Academic Affairs reserves the right to edit your bullets for length, grammar, style and content. You will have an opportunity to review your completed MSPE in mid-September, before it is uploaded into ERAS.
5. See the following samples from the AAMC, who determined the format of the MSPE for most medical schools across the country.

AAMC Sample 1 – Noteworthy Characteristics

- During her second year, Ms. Lee served as the student coordinator for the Community Based Sanctuary Clinic and secured a \$500,000 grant from the United Way of Maine to equip a new seven-room ophthalmology suite for the facility.
- Ms. Lee passed her USMLE Step 1 examination two months after the death of her mother in a motor vehicle accident.
- Ms. Lee 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.

AAMC Sample 2 – Noteworthy Characteristics

- Starting after his first year, Mr. Rey has conducted research with Geraldo Rivera, MD, PhD on the subject of epigenetic factors influencing childhood obesity which has resulted in a series of publications including one with him as first author in the journal Lancet.
 - Mr. Rey is the first member of his family to graduate from college
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