

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



Who do I ask?

Ask a hospitalist, ambulist, or intensivist you have worked closely with or have a research project with. Think about who can write you a meaningful and strong letter recommendation especially who can write about your abilities as a doctor. Include at least one letter from a subspecialist in the specialty you are applying for.

When do I ask?

Ask your letter writer 2-3 months before ERAS opens, and set up a formal meeting with them and provide them the deadlines for applications. The norm is 3-4 letters (some submit up to 5 letters). Check each program for specifics. Most will ask for a program director letter (**required**), some will ask for a department or division chair letter. Some will ask for someone outside the field or some specialists in the field. The earlier you ask the better, as this allows them to pay attention to your performance and have specific strengths and examples. Give them a reasonable deadline.

How do I ask?

Don't be afraid to ask your faculty members, trust me they are accustomed to writing LORs! You may email the request, but I would recommend offering to meet in person to discuss your career plans. Provide them you CV, personal statement, cover letter and whatever else you think will help them to write you a strong letter. Keep them updated, provide important deadlines and thank them!!