Dear Reviewer,

Please address the following points in your letter of recommendation for this student.

• How long have you known this student, and in what circumstances?

• What course(s) did this student take from you? What other direct experiences? Do not give a detailed description of your course—just enough to communicate the subject matter and level.

• How did this student perform in your course(s)? Medical schools are interested in more than grades or class rank. Examples of behavior that reflect levels of effort, independence, creativity, insight, ability to work in groups or alone, leadership abilities, verbal skills, discussion skills, analytical skills, writing skills, etc. are what they look for. In short, try for more verbs than adjectives.

If your course included an independent project or paper, please discuss how the student approached this project, and the student’s accomplishment in terms of effort, writing skills, analytical skills, etc.

• If your course involved a laboratory please assess the student's lab skills, including ability to design lab experiments and projects, to carry out experiments and projects to satisfactory conclusions, analyze data, interpret results, etc. How did this student do in writing-up or otherwise presenting results?

• Did this student take full advantage of the potential of your course(s) as a learning experience?

• If this student has done research under your supervision, please describe both the nature of the project and how the student performed.

• If you supervised this student in a job, on a team, or in a volunteer effort, please describe the situation and how the student performed. Med schools want people who can work collaboratively and contribute to their community.

• How does this student get along with fellow students and with faculty/staff? Interpersonal skills are particularly important to medical school admissions committees.

• How strongly motivated is this student towards a career in medicine? How does the student display this motivation?

• What are this student's strengths and deficiencies, as observed by you?

• What sets this student apart from others of roughly equal qualifications for a career in medicine/dentistry?

• If there are other aspects of the student’s work/accomplishments with which you are familiar, or special circumstances affecting academic performance, describe them. Don’t just recap the student’s resumé or transcript—speak from your own direct knowledge.

Please send both a signed paper copy and an electronic copy of your letter to Health Professions Advisory Committee, Beloit College, hpac@beloit.edu. This form is adapted from the excellent form from Pomona College.