

Pre-Med/Health Advising Office Frequent Asked Questions

FAQ's – General Topics

FAQ's – Letters of Recommendation

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- 1. Is there anywhere I can find the medical school requirements? What are med school pre-requisites?**

The [requirements](#) for FSU College of Medicine are on the web.

There are general med school requirements, but each medical school determines what they require. Find the details in our [Premedical Manual](#) online and talk with a pre-health advisor about starting the process and getting on your path to med school. Go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

- 2. May I talk to someone about the medical school application?**

Yes, it is an important process that takes a lot of planning and effort. Make an appointment to talk with a pre-health advisor. Go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available. We recommend meeting with your pre-health advisor at least once each semester.

- 3. Can I talk to someone about the Physician Assistant (PA) program?**

The FSU College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program [staff](#) can help you with specific questions. And you can go online for more information about their program:

<http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=pa.home>

And FAQ's:

<https://med.fsu.edu/pa/faq>

We have general information about PA programs in our [Pre-PA Manual](#) online.

Our pre-health advisors can help, too. Go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

- 4. What is the best major for medical school?**

There is no "pre-med" major at FSU. Any major is acceptable for medical school as long as you satisfy the prerequisite courses. Your major is a chance for you to explore and engage in your interests. Science majors are a typical choice because they contain many of the prerequisite courses. However, you can complete the program prerequisites with any major. Please contact a pre-health advisor for an appointment. Go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

- 5. How do I schedule an appointment with a pre-med/pre-health advisor?** It's easy. You can go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.
- 6. Who can schedule an appointment with a pre-med/pre-health advisor?**
Appointments are currently prioritized for FSU students and alumni, FAMU, and TCC students. Appointment availability for non-FSU students is limited depending on the time of year, application season, and demand for advising. Prospective students may consult with an FSU prehealth advisor in late summer and mid-December as advisor availability permits.
- 7. Can I talk to the advisor about my classes so that I make sure I get the right ones?**
Yes! You need to meet with your major advisor to make sure you're on track for your degree AND meet with your [pre-health advisor](#) to discuss to path to graduate and professional school.
- 8. Can I take a class in the community college in summer when I am back home?**
A general liberal studies course is OK but most professional schools prefer science courses from a four-year college or university. Discuss with your choices with your pre-health advisor because circumstances are different for each student.
- 9. Do medical schools accept pass or fail class's credits?**
We do not advise students to elect to take any courses pass/fail. Medical school prerequisites must be taken for a letter grade.
- 10. Are there any student organizations for pre-health students?**
Yes! Please visit this [website](#) for more information.
- 11. Where can I find a list of places in Tallahassee where pre-health students can volunteer?**
Please visit this [website](#).
- 12. I have graduated from FSU. Can I still see the pre-health advisors?**
Of course! Please go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available. Appointments may be in-person, virtual or phone appointment.

FAQ's – Letters of Recommendation

13. I heard you guys do a letters service, how does it work?

Yes, we offer a letter packet service for medical school applicants only (allopathic and/or osteopathic schools). Letter writers send their letters to us electronically and we submit a letter packet to be uploaded with your professional school application.

More information and details are on our website:

<http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=AdvisingOutreach.premedLetters>

To start the letter packet process, you must meet with a pre-health advisor. Go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

14. Do I have to use the Letter Packet service?

No, the Letter Packet service is optional and is a service for FSU students to make sure that their letters are getting to the right place and are formatted correctly. Students can use the Letter Packet Service or ask their writers to upload letters directly. Here is a link with instructions for the letter writers to create an account and upload letters letter to AMCAS:

<https://services.aamc.org/letterwriter/>

15. Can your office provide a committee letter?

FSU does not have a pre-med committee so does not offer a “committee letter”. FSU students need to request letters of recommendation from letter writers like faculty, healthcare providers, community service coordinators, etc.

16. What's the difference between a “Committee Letter” and a “Letter Packet”?

FSU does **not** have a pre-med committee so does not offer a “committee letter”. Letter writers send their letters to us electronically and we submit a letter packet to be uploaded with your professional school application.

17. I am requesting letters of recommendation but can't remember if I signed the waiver or not. How can I find out if I did?

Questions like this one regarding our letter packet service and the process of submitting letters of recommendation can be emailed to virtual.eval@med.fsu.edu. If you still have questions, you can go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

18. My professor said they sent their letter, but they did not receive a confirmation email. Did you get my letter?

Letter writers will receive confirmation that their letter was received within 2- 3 days.

Students will also be emailed within 72 hours after their letters are received. If they have not been notified by our office, that means the letter has not been sent yet.

Students do not need to call or email to check back – just check their emails for the confirmation. They can also check with their letter writer directly for confirmation that they sent the letter.

19. I want to check how many letters that you guys have received, so that I could know who else hasn't sent it yet.

Students will be emailed within 72 hours after their letters are received. If they have not been notified by our office, that means the letter has not been sent yet. They do not need to call or email to check back – just check their emails. They can also check with their letter writer directly for confirmation that they sent the letter.

20. I checked my AMCAS application and my letter status still says “Letters not received” but I got confirmation from Virtual Evals. I am confused. What’s going on?

Submitting letter packets is a multistep process. Because so many students apply, it can take AMCAS 2 – 3 business days to process and upload letters for each applicant. Upon receiving your Virtual Evals confirmation, please wait 1 – 2 business days for your AMCAS letter status to update. If you still have problems, let us know! Email us at virtual.eval@med.fsu.edu or go [online](#) to schedule your appointment or call 850-644-7678 if there are no appointments available.

21. I am worried my letter writer can't get my letter done on time. What should I do?

There isn't one definitive answer for this. We like to advise you personally, on a case-by-case basis, for these types of situations. Please call 850-644-7678 or go [online](#) to schedule an in person or phone appointment.

22. Can students reuse the letters from the past year or previous application cycle?

Letters on file from a previous application cycle cannot be included in a letter packet without consent from the letter writers. Students need to have their letter writers email virtual.eval@med.fsu.edu with an updated letter OR written permission to use the previously submitted letter. It's in the student's best interest to 1) have current letters; 2) receive permission to use a letter written in the past; 3) keep their letter writers updated on their application plans. Some programs do not like to see letters older than a year. It also looks better to show the student is still in communication with their letter writers.

23. May a student have letters of recommendation forwarded directly to AMCAS from one letter writer and from our Letter of Recommendations Service if it is a different letter writer?

Letter writers are permitted to submit their letters directly. The student can either use the AMCAS Interfolio service or the FSU Pre-Health Office letter service. For AMCAS Interfolio, students need to include the letter writers' information in AMCAS so they would receive the request and the link to submit. The other option is for a student to make a letter request form for each individual letter and would need to send this request to each letter writer.

Below is the link that better explains the two options so the student can review them.

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/how-apply-medical-school-amcas/section-6-amcas-application-letters-evaluation>

24. Can students submit their AMCAS application without their letter packet? Will they consider my application if it is not complete?

Yes! students can submit their applications without their letter packets. (All application items

must be in before submission except for MCAT score and letters since they don't require verification). AMCAS, AACOMAS, and TMDSAS verify students' applications before sending them out to individual schools; this process takes 4-6 weeks. So, we advise students to have their letters in within this time so all materials will be sent to schools at the same time. However, even if letters are added later than that, they are still accepted.