



American University of the Caribbean  
School of Medicine

# OCA Match Corner

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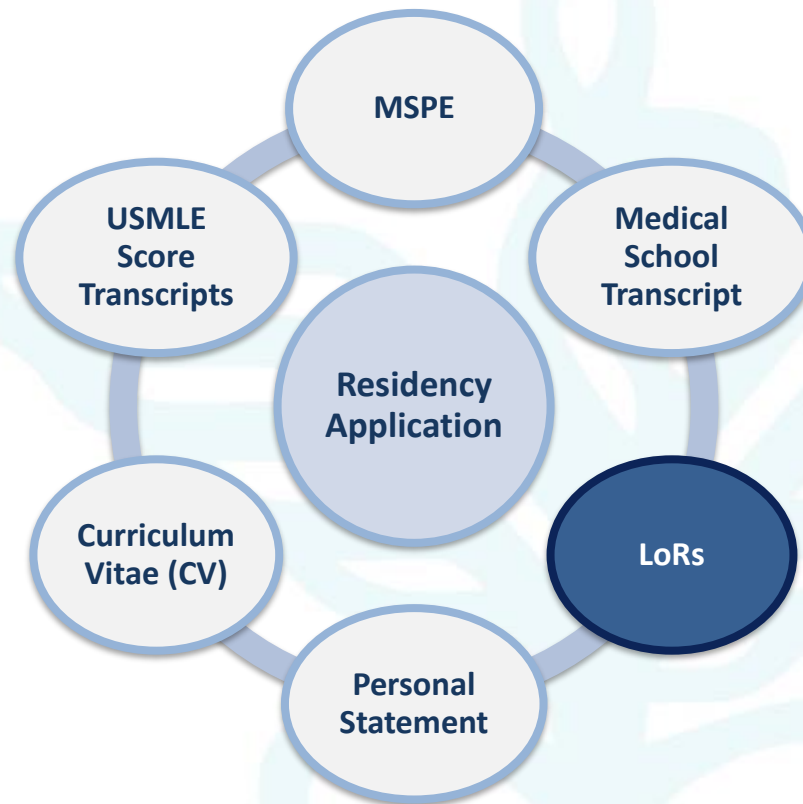
*Office of Career Advisement*

*Letters of Recommendation (LoRs)*



# Residency Application Supporting Documents

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[2020 NRMP Program Director Survey](#)



## LoR Overview

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Types of LoRs

Who to Ask

How to Approach  
a Letter Writer

Rotations to Request  
LoRs From

Waiving the Right to See  
Letter (Yes or No?)

LoR Resources

Process for Uploading LoRs

ERAS/NRMP Deadlines



## Types of LoRs

### Specialty Specific

Written to include your preferred specialty and why you would excel in your chosen field.  
*You will need at least 1 LoR in your desired specialty to apply to programs in mid-September.*

VS.

### General Letter

Written to show off your skills as a physician, but does not specify your desired specialty. They are intended to be supplementary to help support your specialty-specific LoR.

### Clerkship/Externship

You will likely be securing LoRs from AUC Clerkships. Clerkships and Externships can have the biggest impact on your application with clerkships ranking the highest.

VS.

### Observership

Observerships can be helpful if you are hoping to familiarize yourself with a private practice or hospital setting as well as to enhance your CV.

### Academic

Academic LoRs are from hospitals associated with a teaching program. These letters generally carry more weight and should make up the majority of the LoRs in your application.

VS.

### Private Practice

Private Practice LoRs can still be helpful to your application; however, Academic LoRs should comprise the majority of the LoRs in your application.

US, Canadian & UK Letters



## Standard Letter of Evaluation (SLoE)

Required if applying to Emergency Medicine

Students will need at least two  
SLoEs during the application season

1 SLoE prior to NRMP Registration in  
mid-September for interview  
consideration

1 SLoE prior to Rank Order List  
Deadline in late February for ranking  
consideration



## Who to Ask for a LoR

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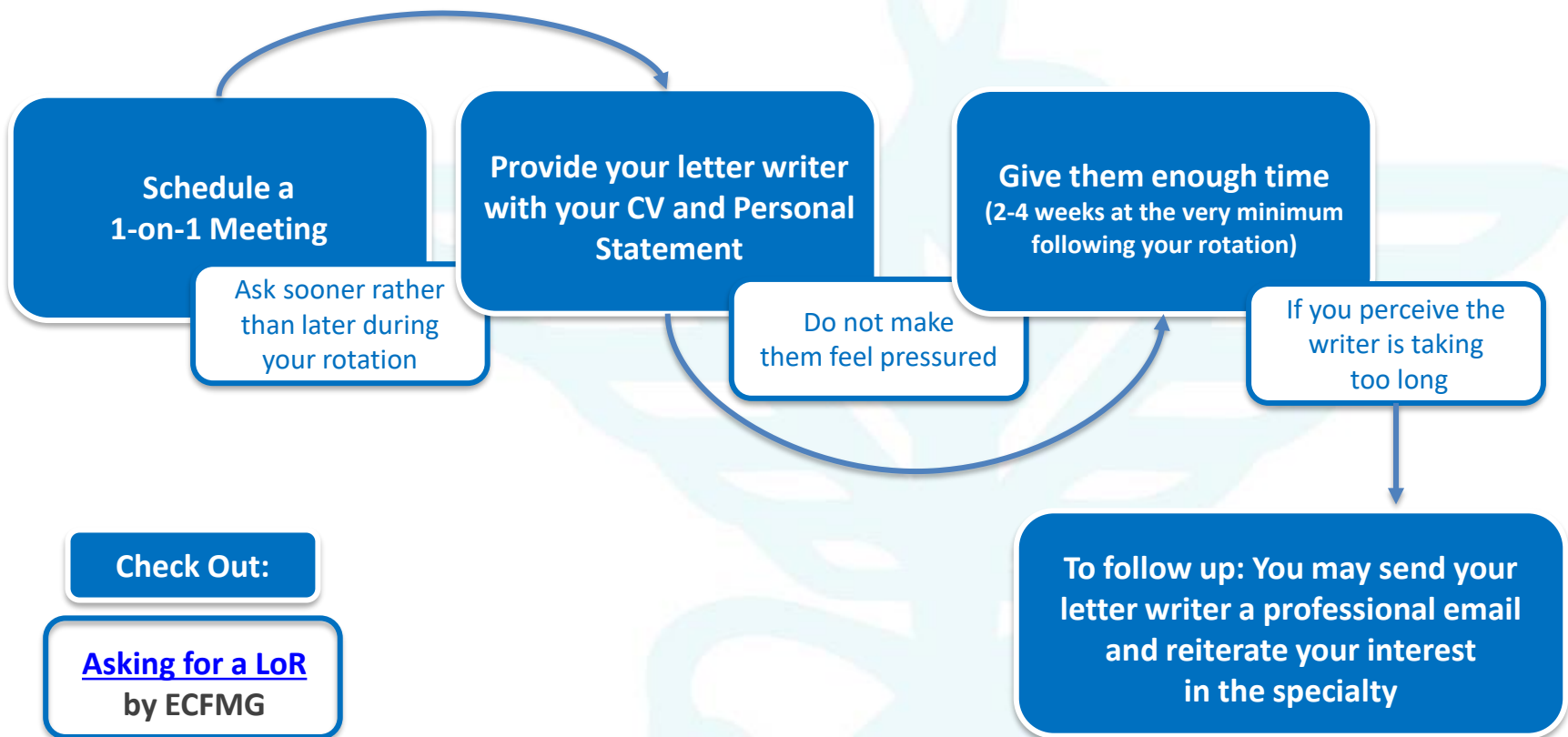
**Physicians who have witnessed  
you in a clinical setting**

**Physicians who are familiar with  
your clinical abilities, medical  
knowledge and work ethic**

**Physicians who are aware of  
your interpersonal skills with  
patients and your ability to  
work in a team**

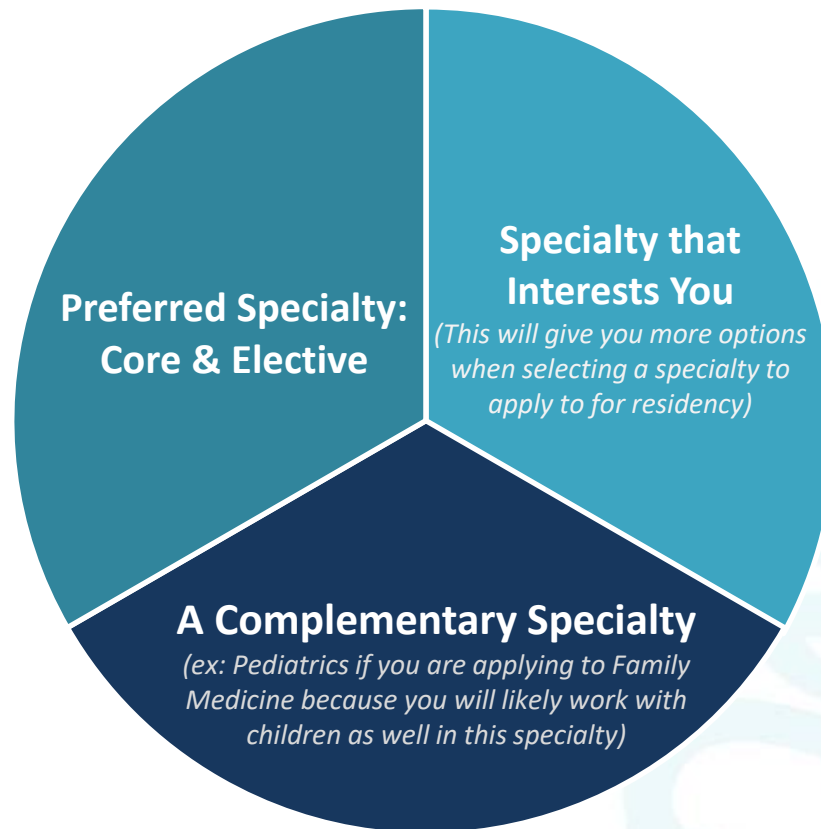


## How to Ask for a LoR





## Which Rotations Should I Request LoRs From?



**Note:** Texas and California both require at least 4 weeks of an ACGME-sponsored rotation in Family Medicine in order to be eligible for licensure.





## To Waive or Not to Waive Right

**Right to View**

**VS.**

**Waived Right**



**AUC's recommendation is for students to waive their right to view the letter.**  
*If the LoR is viewed before it is submitted, it can be perceived as not as genuine compared to someone who waived his or her right to view it.*



## Process for Uploading the LoR

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[Letter of Recommendation Portal \(LoRP\)](#) will need your AAMC #

Must be PDF, no more than 500KB, no electronic signature and must be on official letterhead

Cannot be uploaded by medical school or member of hospital staff in an advising role

A minimum of 3 letters per application and maximum of 4

Mac users should use Firefox or Chrome as ERAS does not support Safari



## Submitting LoRs Early

I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student and waived my right to view the letter.  
What are my choices?

### Option 1

[Open an ERAS account prior to your fourth year](#)

or

### Option 2

Ask the letter writer to hold the LoR until you open an account in your 4<sup>th</sup> year.



## LoR Deadline

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**September 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Of the year prior to the Match*

ECFMG recommends submitting your supporting documents by this date in order to guarantee their availability to programs by September 29<sup>th</sup>.

*\*Dates are based on timeline for 2022 Match  
Check the [ECFMG Timeline](#) as dates are subject to change*

***Note: Your MSPE letter will be uploaded by OCA and will not be released to programs until September 29<sup>th</sup>.***