



DONALD AND BARBARA
ZUCKER SCHOOL of MEDICINE
AT HOFSTRA/NORTHWELL

Medical Student Performance Evaluation FAQs

Q. How will curriculum changes based on COVID-19 be reflected in my MSPE?

A. The MSPE contains standard explanatory paragraphs that contextualize the ZSOM curriculum. In this year's MSPEs, this standard language will address how the school's curriculum was changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. Who writes the MSPE?

A. The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) is a letter of evaluation that includes student data and personal information compiled from multiple sources, arranged into a standardized letter format. The assistant dean for curricular affairs and special projects and the special projects coordinator are primarily responsible for the preparation of the MSPE into its prescribed structure. However, there are many other individuals who contribute to the complex process of compiling and preparing your performance assessment data, personal information, and academic history data for inclusion in the MSPE. The Office of Assessment and Evaluation processes all assessment data. Narrative assessments taken from your clerkship evaluations are selected by course and clerkship directors and dean's office staff for inclusion in the MSPE. Your career advisor will work with you to gather the personal information and professional accomplishments needed to draft your noteworthy characteristics section. The director of student records verifies and submits your academic history data for inclusion in the MSPE.

Q. What information is included in the MSPE and where does it come from?

A. The format and content of the MSPE is recommended by the AAMC so it is standardized among all medical schools, and contains the following sections:

Identifying Information: Your name and class year.

Noteworthy Characteristics: Up to four bullet points that describe your most important personal attributes and accomplishments, based on your medical school experience, as well as information about any significant personal challenges or hardships encountered during medical school. These should already be finalized.

Academic History: An at-a-glance summary of some basic academic information that includes your matriculation date, expected graduation date, any extensions, leaves, gaps, or breaks in your educational program, any combined degree programs, any remediation or repetition of coursework, as well as any adverse actions taken by the School or University. This information comes from the Office of Student Records. Each student's Academic History is formatted the same way, answering the six pieces of basic academic information listed above.

Academic Progress: This section comprises the majority of the MSPE and contains several subsections, described below:



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Professional Performance: This section includes a brief summary of your professional performance throughout all four years of medical school, based upon the seven dimensions of professionalism. Negative professionalism findings, if any, are reported here. This information comes from the Office of Assessment and Evaluation and the Student Professionalism Committee.

First 100 Weeks: Includes 1-3 comments from summative assessments representing your performance in PEARLS and ICE. This information comes from your assessments in *one45* and the most descriptive comments that best summarize your performance in these areas are selected by the PEARLS and ICE directors and dean's office staff.

Second 100 Weeks:

Core clerkships:

Includes narrative and graphical information regarding your overall performance in the core clinical clerkships. Included are 1-3 comments from summative faculty/resident and ACE rounds facilitator assessments, as well as a detailed breakdown of the clerkship grading components. This information comes from your assessments in *one45* and the most descriptive comments that best summarize your performance in each clerkship are selected by the ACE co-directors and dean's office staff. There is also a graph representing your comparative performance in each core clerkship.

Acting Internships:

In the AI sub-section(s), any acting internships completed during the first two blocks of your fourth year are included, as long as assessment forms are submitted by October 1st. As in the core clerkships, 1-3 representative comments are included from summative faculty/resident assessments, as well as the final AI grade. This information comes from your assessments in *one45* and the most descriptive comments that best summarize your performance in each area are selected by the AI co-directors and dean's office staff. Comments and grades from selectives, electives, and ACE continuity clinic are not included in the MSPE.

Summary: A statement and graph that represents your overall comparative performance in medical school, relative to your peers, in which you are put into one of four school-specific categories ("adjectives") used to differentiate among levels of student performance. Of note, adjectives are not included for students in the MD/PhD program.

Medical School Information: Contains standard information about our curriculum.

Q. Which comments get included in the MSPE?

A. The directors of PEARLS and ICE select the comments from PEARLS and ICE summative assessments that get included in the MSPE. The co-directors for ACE and AIs select the clerkship/AI comments that get included in the MSPE. Staff in the dean's office also assists in selecting comments. Students do not choose or edit the comments included in the MSPE.



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Q. How is the overall comparative performance “adjective” determined?

A. The overall comparative performance category is determined using pre-set standards based on your academic performance in the six core clerkships, your USMLE Step 1 score, and if you were nominated by your peers for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

(Nomination into the Alpha Omega Alpha Society is based on academic performance and is therefore included in the determination.) There are four categories used and they are **not** based on quartiles. The four categories are Very Good, Excellent, Excellent/Outstanding, and Outstanding.

Q. Will I have a chance to review my MSPE before it is finalized?

A. Yes. You will receive an email in early October with information about how to review a draft of your MSPE.

Q. When is the MSPE sent to programs? What if I am applying in an early match specialty (ophthalmology, urology) or a military program - will my MSPE be sent earlier to programs?

A. This year the MSPE deadline to upload to ERAS, SF Match, and/or MODS has been extended to October 21st for all specialties. October 21st is the national release date, and medical schools are not permitted to release the MSPE prior to that date. Please note that specialties participating in early matches are accustomed to starting this process and reviewing applications prior to the release of the MSPE. Your application will not be considered incomplete by these specialties.

Q. If I have additional questions about the content of my MSPE, who should I talk to?

A. For additional questions, please contact MSPE@hofstra.edu.