



Medical Student Performance Evaluation FAQs

Q. How is the curriculum described in the MSPE and does it reflect changes based on COVID-19?

The MSPE contains standard explanatory paragraphs that contextualize the ZSOM curriculum. For MD-PhD students the MSPE also includes language describing their requirements. For students who completed ACE in 2020-21, the standard language will address how the school's curriculum was changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. Who writes the MSPE?

The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) is a standardized letter of evaluation (not recommendation) that includes student data and personal information compiled from multiple sources, including you, the student. (To understand the different sections, please see FAQ below.) The Office of Assessment and Evaluation is 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. Narrative assessments taken from your clerkship evaluations are selected by course and clerkship directors 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. For MD candidates, the letter is signed by Dean Battinelli. For MD/PhD candidates, the letter is signed by Dean Battinelli and Dr. Betty Diamond.

Q: Who uploads the MSPE?

Once completed, 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?

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 three bullet points that describe your most important personal attributes and accomplishments, based on your medical school experience. A fourth bullet point may be used to convey information about any significant academic challenges encountered during medical school.

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:

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.

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 directors. 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 three blocks of your fourth year are included, with the caveat that the school can only include AIs for which grades are generated by September 7, 2022. 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 Director of AIs.

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: Are grades or comments included from ACE Continuity Clinic, internal or external electives, selectives, transitions, or core learning?

No, but elective acting internships are included.

Q: Are any narrative assessment comments edited?

Comments are edited for grammar only, not content. Comments are written in the past tense and in the third person. The school aims to include comments addressing a student's competency rather than personal characteristics.

Q: Will any remedial work be included in the MSPE?

Yes, if a student had to repeat a course or clerkship, details will be included. Specifically, the reason the student failed in the first place will be detailed as well as the student's performance on the repeat attempt. Temporary grades, such as incomplete or conditional pass, are generally not included on the MSPE unless they have not yet been resolved at the time the letter is written.

Q. If a student is elected to AOA, Gold Humanism Honor Society, graduation with distinction in research or graduation with distinction in community engagement, will that be included?

Yes, the school will add a notation about AOA, Gold, and graduation with a distinction in research or graduation with distinction in community engagement.

Q: Will the school include scholarly concentrations, such as IMPACcT, Medical Spanish, Ultrasound, or Klar?

No. If a student wishes to include scholarly concentrations, noteworthy characteristics would be the appropriate section. There also a place to include them in your ERAS application.

Q: How do I decide what to include in the "Noteworthy Characteristics" section?

This is something that you and your career advisor will discuss in May and June.

Q. Which comments get included in the MSPE?

The directors of PEARLS and ICE select the comments from PEARLS and ICE summative assessments that get included in the MSPE. The ACE Directors and Director of AIs select the clerkship/AI comments that get included in the MSPE. Students do not choose or edit the comments included in the MSPE.

Q. How is the overall comparative performance "adjective" determined?

The overall comparative performance category is determined using pre-set standards based on your academic performance in the core clerkships, as well as nomination for induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. There are four categories used and they are not based on quartiles. The four categories are Very Good, Excellent, Excellent/Outstanding, and Outstanding.

Q: Are students allowed to appeal their "adjective"?

No, there is no opportunity to appeal the adjective since it is not an earned grade, but rather a determination made by pre-set standards.

Q: How is the MSPE different for students in the MD/PhD program?

There are two differences. 1) One paragraph describing the student's thesis work is included. 2) There is no "adjective" included for students in the MD/PhD program.

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

Yes. You will receive an email in late August with information about how to review a draft of your MSPE. During the review, you will be asked to comment on any factual errors only.

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?

September 28th is the national release date, and medical schools are not permitted to release the MSPE prior to that date. Therefore, the MSPE will be uploaded by September 28th to ERAS, SF Match, and/or MODS. 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?

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