DENTAL APPLICANTS

Please refer to the ADEA-AADSAS website for important information about Letters of Evaluation (LOE's, a-k-a Letters of Recommendation) for AADSAS 2008 applicants. The AADSAS application will open on or about May 15, and AADSAS is introducing a new process for handling Letters of Evaluation that let’s evaluators submit letters either online or through the mail. Detailed instructions and FAQ's will be added to the AADSAS application when it launches.

Generally, most dental schools prefer Committee Letters/Reports if they are offered. Because AADSAS recognizes and respects that different schools compile Committee Letters in different ways, we will accept your Committee Letters regardless of the number of individual letters you include with your Committee Letter. For most applicants, the Committee Letter (whether supporting letters are included or not) is sufficient. AADSAS is permitting applicants to provide one additional individual LOE in addition to the Committee Letter because some institutions cannot include letters from outside their universities, and applicants may wish to provide a letter from--for example--a practicing dentist. Applicants are under no obligation to provide that additional individual letter--it is their choice. (Applicants might be reminded that more is not always better.)

If an applicant does not have access to a Pre-dental Committee, AADSAS will accept up to four individual Letters of Evaluation. Generally, dental schools prefer letters from science faculty, faculty/others with whom the applicant may have special experience (e.g., research, internship, special project, summer enrichment program, etc.) and a Dental professional with whom the applicant has mentored, shadowed and/or discussed experiences as a practicing dentist. Because no two pre-dental students are the same, there is no single best formula for being more specific about evaluators. Admissions Committees seek information from evaluators about personal qualities including (but not necessarily limited to) potential to succeed in a rigorous science curriculum, being able to manage multiple priorities, ethical/professional behavior, knowledge of dentistry as a career, overcoming challenges, skills and talents, and other qualities that address an applicant's potential to be a successful dental student and healthcare provider. Obviously, not every evaluator can address all aspects of an applicant's potential, which is why it is important for the applicant to select evaluators who can—in total—address these kinds of qualities or who can address particular applicant issues that may not be obvious from a general overview of the application.