

Residency Career Advising

MSPE Noteworthy Characteristics

Worksheet



Your Medical School Performance Evaluation (MSPE), the formal letter of evaluation that assesses students' academic performance and professional attributes that all medical schools are required to submit with residency applications, contains a Noteworthy Characteristics section. This section is made up of three personalized bullet-pointed sentences that describe key attributes of your application.

Use this worksheet to outline 3-5 salient characteristics, in one sentence each, for submission via REDCap. These points should be **unrelated to your grades** and should contain information that you think Program Directors in your specialty would want to know about you. Focus on the experience or characteristic; do not mention or focus on the specialty itself. Refer to the [Introduction to Noteworthy Characteristics video](#) for more detailed information.

Think about expressing a larger *concept* or accomplishment and highlighting evidence; be creative and **think beyond just listing things from your CV**.

Submit these Noteworthy Characteristics via REDCap by **Friday, February 20, 2026**. Within a few weeks, your Career Advisor will provide feedback, which you should use to make revisions and finalize by April 1st.

Examples (overarching themes in red):

1. Izzy hopes to inspire the next class of learners through **teaching and mentorship**, having served as a peer educator, peer mentor, and as a mentor to Chicago high school students interested in health careers.
2. Jordan **steps up as a leader** when she feels she can make a change, and has served as a Dean's Council representative, a leader in her advising society, and a co-chair of a local high school health scholars organization.
3. Devin hopes to incorporate his **passion for reducing disparities in health care** into his future practice and has consistently prioritized community engagement and leadership via Pritzker's student-run free clinics.
4. Sheena is passionate about **innovation in medical education**, and her research on novel methods for teaching clinical skills has led to several presentations and first author publications.
5. Having seen firsthand the **impact of health disparities** on those in the South Side of Chicago, Misha has invested a tremendous amount of his extracurricular time to give back to the community through **service initiatives**.

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Things to consider:

- Achievements in research
- Leadership in student organizations
- Institutional leadership
- Community service
- Hobbies that speak to your career interests (i.e. writing about medicine; leadership of peers in sports leagues)
- Teaching, peer educating, and mentorship
- Work experiences before medical school that have influenced your practice (i.e. how a previous job or career and skills acquired translated to medical school)

*Use evidence (but do not simply *list*). Your accomplishments in the above areas should be highlighted with objective markers of success, like awards received, recognition, length of service, etc.*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

When you have decided on your **three** noteworthy characteristics, you will input them into your MSPE survey in the Medical School Experience tab, in the box labeled “Noteworthy Characteristics.”