



Letters of Recommendation

Important Information and Submission Guidelines

***Please give a copy of this page to each recommender.**

USC requires three confidential letters of recommendation from professional colleagues who are in a position to evaluate the applicant's potential as a student in our Ph.D. program. We are especially interested in letters from a research advisor, undergraduate advisor, or some other immediate supervisor. Chemistry, biochemistry, or physics faculty members who have taught the applicant in multiple classes or supervised him/her in some way are in a strong position to contribute to the application.

Letters from teaching assistants, faculty outside of the sciences or math, or people who have not closely observed the applicant as a student, a teacher, or a researcher are rarely useful.

If the applicant is currently in another graduate program, at least two letters must come from the current institution, including one from the applicant's research advisor.

***Very important:* Letters must be received directly from the recommenders. We will not consider letters sent to use by the applicant, even if they are in sealed envelopes.**

Recommenders:

Thank you for helping us evaluate this student's application. Please comment on the applicant's strengths, weaknesses, and potential for success in research and coursework. Quantitative rankings ("top 10%," "#20 out of 40," etc.) are useful. We would also appreciate your assessment of the applicant's verbal and written communication skills, potential as a teaching assistant, and ability to work with faculty and other students. Please include your telephone number and email address in case we need any additional information.

When the applicant submits the online application, you will receive an email from our application system prompting you to upload the letter as a Word document or PDF. You do not need to mail a hard copy of the letter. If you have any problems with the process, please email the Graduate Advisor, Katie McKissick at mckissic@usc.edu.

If you need any additional information about our program, please see our website at <http://chem.usc.edu> or contact Katie McKissick with questions.

Thank you,
USC Chemistry Graduate Admissions