

Professional Reference letter

When requesting a letter of reference, to support your Nursing application, you should pick a referee who knows you very well and who you know genuinely wants to support you in your quest to become a Nurse. The reference letter is an important piece of the overall picture from an admissions team's perspective, and failing to give it sufficient attention can mean the difference between the "yes" list and the "no" or "wait" list.

What is the difference between a Professional letter of reference and a character reference?

- A **professional letter of reference** should discuss your work performance and attest to the skills, experience, and abilities that you have which best qualify you for the program. While the reference may discuss the applicant's personality; discussion of performance, punctuality, teamwork, experience, and work ethic are necessary in a professional letter of reference. A professional reference is typically a current or former employer, colleague, client, volunteer coordinator, supervisor or someone else who has first-hand knowledge and can recommend you as a qualified candidate.
- A **character reference letter** discusses the candidate's personality, character, and overall abilities. A character reference letter lacks specific information about the applicant's previous employment. Often, this type of letter does not describe how the applicant's skills, abilities, etc. relate directly to the program for which he/she is applying. Character references focus on a broad overview of traits and abilities without specific references to the needs of the position.