Dear Applicant:

We are pleased that you are considering applying to the Early Assurance Program (EAP) at Loyola University Chicago. EAP is an opportunity for the top pre-medical students of the rising junior cohort (second-year student) to be conditionally accepted into the designated first-year class (2023) at the Stritch School of Medicine (SSOM).

This cover letter highlights some important aspects of the EAP application process. Please refer to the EAP Overview document, which provides, among other things, a summary of program eligibility; requirements; and criteria typically used, at least in part, to select candidates for admission to SSOM. Applicants are required to complete an online application, via the Pre-Health Applications Database (PHAD), detailing personal history, contact information for recommenders, and responses to essay questions. Please note that you will need to invest considerable time and thought in completing this application. Remember that your work will be judged on both its content and form.

The EAP Lake Shore Campus Selection Committee reviews every application completed by the deadlines. That is, all the materials for which you are directly responsible, as well as the required letters of evaluation, that have been received in the Pre-Health Professions Program by the posted deadlines. The Selection Committee will assess each candidate to see that all eligibility requirements are satisfied, evaluate the quality of the candidacies of eligible applicants, and select candidates for interviews at Loyola’s Lake Shore Campus. Interviews will likely be held during the first month or two of the fall semester.

Following the interview, the Selection Committee will conduct a summative evaluation of each candidate and forward their top candidates (maximum of ten) to the SSOM Committee on Admissions. The SSOM Committee on Admissions may invite none, some, or all of these candidates for a series of interviews, which typically occur in October. Candidates who interview at SSOM are typically notified whether or not they have earned conditional admission via EAP by the SSOM Committee on Admissions in December/January. Candidates who succeed in this final stage will be guaranteed acceptance into the designated first-year class at SSOM (contingent upon fulfilling requirements outlined in the EAP Overview document and any subsequent communication from SSOM).
With the completed application, you must submit a photograph and **three (3) required letters of evaluation**: two (2) from Loyola **science faculty** and one (1) from a professional in a **post-secondary medically-related experience** in which the applicant was/is engaged. An optional fourth letter of evaluation may also be submitted. Specifically, this fourth letter may serve as a second clinical letter or a research letter, but it cannot take the place of any of the three required letters of evaluation. Letters of evaluation from relatives will be ignored. Letters of evaluation from co-workers of relatives will also not be accepted. Letters of evaluation should be submitted directly from the evaluators electronically via the Pre-Health Applications Database. Please first make your request in person to your evaluators for confirmation a letter will be provided. Upon confirmation, notify the recommender an electronic request will be sent via email which will include the student’s waiver selection of confidentiality, recommendations and guidelines for reference. Instructions for uploading the completed letter will also be included. **The deadline for receipt of letters of evaluation is 5:00 pm, Friday, September 17, 2021.** It is the responsibility of each candidate to notify their recommenders that letters must be on letterhead and signed. Candidates are also responsible to confirm that letters of evaluation have been received by the Pre-Health Professions Program Office by monitoring PHAD.

**In order to be considered for EAP, you must submit your completed application no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, September 10, 2021.**

You may immediately begin working on your responses to the essay questions, requesting letters of evaluation, etc. The EAP Application will be available on the Pre-Health application database ([https://forms.luc.edu/prehealth/login/login](https://forms.luc.edu/prehealth/login/login)) and the final version of your EAP Application must be submitted electronically via this route.

Please contact our office at **PHAdvising@luc.edu** if you have any questions about any aspects of the EAP Application or the electronic submission process. We look forward to working with you!

On behalf of the EAP Lake Shore Campus Selection Committee,

Megan Tisdale