



2026-2027 ERAS[®] Recruitment Cycle Standardized Letter (SLOE) Update

For Urology at AUA'26

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May 14, 2026

Upcoming Changes to the 2026-2027 ERAS Application Season

Improving the Letters of Recommendation Process

Expanding Standard Evaluative Letters

New Pilots and Continued Evaluation

Improving the Letter of Recommendation Process

Today's Experience

- Fragmented process (LoRP limitations)
- Manual, time-intensive workflows
- Limited visibility for applicants & programs
- Increasing scale and complexity

What We Heard from the Community

- **Letter writers:** cumbersome process
- **Applicants:** lack of transparency
- **Programs:** inconsistent submissions
- **Institutions:** administrative burden

Where We're Going

- Centralized Letter Writer Portal
- Streamlined, intuitive workflows
- Improved data quality & reliability
- Better experience across all users

Introducing the AAMC Letter Writer Portal

Compared to today, the updated experience includes:

- **Direct access via email**
 - No need to search by request ID
- **Flexible submission options**
 - Submit with or without an AAMC account
- **New document file types accepted**
 - Expands flexibility to support evolving letter formats
- **Centralized dashboard (with AAMC Account)**
 - Track, manage, and view letter history
- **Improved support for different types of letters**
 - Clearer labels for type of letter



SLOE Pilots for the 2027 ERAS Season

Launching in partnership with:

- Dermatology (APD)
- **Urology (SAU)**
- Plastic Surgery (ACEPS)

What this includes:

- Specialty-specific standardized letter templates
- Integrated directly into the letter request process
- Delivered through the Letter Writer Portal

Goal:

- Improve consistency and comparability
- Support program decision-making
- Evaluate impact for future expansion

Student Perspective Requesting Standardized Letters for Urology

Letter Format and Details

Letter requests will still originate in the MyERAS system.

When an applicant requests a letter, they will need to provide the following information:

- Author Name
- Author Email
- **Specialty to which the letter will be assigned**
- **Letter Type – Standardized or Narrative**
- Department Chair – Yes or No
- Waiver of right to view – Yes or No

The screenshot displays the 'Letters Of Recommendation' section for the 'ERAS 2027 Season - Residency' program. A user profile for 'Ma AAMC exan' is visible in the top right. The main content area shows a modal window titled 'Add Letter of Recommendation' with the following fields and options:

- Author Name:** Text input field containing 'Example Name'.
- Author Email:** Text input field containing 'Example@aamc.org'.
- Select Specialty to which this letter will be assigned:** Dropdown menu with 'Urology' selected.
- Do you want to request a Standardized Letter (SLOE, SLOR, eSLOE, SEL) or a Narrative Letter?** Radio buttons for 'Standardized Letter' (selected) and 'Narrative Letter'.
- Do you need this letter to fulfill a Department Chair letter requirement?** Radio buttons for 'Yes' and 'No' (selected).
- I waive my right to view my Letter of Recommendation:** Radio buttons for 'Yes' (selected) and 'No'.

Buttons for 'CANCEL' and 'ADD' are located at the bottom right of the modal. The background shows a sidebar with 'Personal Statements', 'Letters of Recommendation', and 'Additional Documents'.

Requesting Letters from Authors

Applicants can request letters by:

- Sending the request directly from the MyERAS system.
- Downloading a letter request and sharing it with the authors.

Be clear on what type of letter you are soliciting from authors.

Letter Request Details

Confirmed for Upload | Mar 18, 2026

Request ID:	14JN-G9DVF8-G9DV1
Author Name:	Dr. John Bindings
Specialty:	Dermatology
Author's Email Address:	drjohnbindings@ehu.edu
Fulfilling a Department Chair letter requirement?:	Yes
Letter Type:	Narrative Letter
Waive rights to view LoR:	Yes

DOWNLOAD LETTER REQUEST SEND REQUEST

Send Request

Step 1 of 2

Author Name: Dr. Alan Allens
Specialty: Plastic Surgery-Integrated

Please review the information and confirm email before sending your request.

* Author Email: draallens@shuh.edu
* Confirm Author Email: I

* LoR Request Message
I am requesting that you submit my Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which transmits my LoR(s) to the residency programs to which I am applying.

823 characters left out of 1020

CANCEL PREVIEW EMAIL

Managing Letters

Applicants will be able to manage their requests in the LoR section of the MyERAS application.

This screen will display:

- LoR Author
- Standardized Letter Label
- Specialty (designated by applicant)
- Request Status
 - Not Confirmed for Upload
 - Confirmed for Upload
 - Uploaded
 - Imported

The screenshot shows the 'Letters Of Recommendation' management interface for the ERAS 2027 Season - Residency*. The user is Barry Gibson (AAMC ID 20731401, jclister@aamc.org). The interface includes a sidebar with 'Personal Statements', 'Letters of Recommendation', and 'Additional Documents'. The main content area provides instructions for authors to upload letters, including steps to click 'Add New', confirm entries, and download request forms. A table lists three LoR entries with their authors, specialties, and request statuses.

LoR Author	Specialty	Request Status	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Doctor Request ID: 15JUQTMRF5	Family Med	Confirmed for Upload Mar 19, 2026	⋮
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Alan Allens Request ID:	Plastic Surgery-Integrated	Not Confirmed for Upload	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Alan Allens Request ID:	General (can be used for multiple specialties)	Not Confirmed for Upload	⋮

Letter Writer Perspective Completing Standardized Letters for Urology

Receiving the Letter Request

Check the details on the letter request from the applicant:

- Request is for a Standardized Letter of Evaluation (SLOE).
- Direct link to the AAMC Letter Writer Portal

ERAS Standardized Letter of Recommendation (LoR) Request

ERAS Application Season: 2027
ERAS Letter ID: 7LNF-BNXTB-WNG9J

I am requesting that you submit my Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which transmits my LoR(s) to the residency programs to which I am applying. PERSONAL EMAIL.

AAMC Letter Writer Portal

The [AAMC Letter Writer Portal](#) is a centralized service that allows LoR Authors to upload LoRs for applicants applying to ERAS residency programs.

The ERAS team has established a set of guidelines that should be reviewed prior to writing and uploading LoRs using the Letter Writer Portal.

For more information about the AAMC Letter Writer Portal guidelines and additional resources, please visit [ERAS® for Letter of Recommendation Authors | AAMC](#).

- Review the information below. If any information is inaccurate, contact the applicant directly so they can make corrections.

Applicant Details

Name	Michael, George
AAMC ID	20748983
Phone Number	+1 (555) 555-5555
Email	jcclister@aamc.org

LoR Details

LoR Author Name	Applicant Entered Author Name
Specialty to which letter will be assigned	Dermatology
Department Chair letter requirement	Yes
Waive rights to view this letter	This applicant has indicated that they DO NOT WAIVE their right to view this letter now and in the future. The applicant has acknowledged that this letter is for the specific purpose of supporting my application for

Standardized or Narrative?	Standardized (SLOE, SLOR, eSLOE, SEL)
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Verify the Request Information

Check the details on the letter request from the applicant:

- Correct applicant is indicated.
- **Request is for a Standardized Letter of Evaluation (SLOE).**
- Appropriate specialty, Urology, is listed.
- Correct season/cycle.

Request Info Author Details Evaluation Letter Preview & Submit

Request for Applicant Name

This applicant has requested a Standardized Letter of Evaluation (SLOE) in support of their application. A SLOE is a structured, specialty-specific evaluation tool used to provide programs with a consistent, comparative, and competency-based assessment of an applicant's performance and readiness.

You will be prompted to respond to a series of questions about yourself and your experience with the applicant. For more information please review [ERAS® for Letter Writers](#).

Requestor Information	Author Information
Requestor Name: Applicant Name	Author Name: Author Name
Requestor Preferred Name: A. Preferred	Author Email: example@aamc.org
Requestor AAMC ID: 21023731	
Requestor Email: example@aamc.org	
Requestor Phone Number: +1 (234) 567-8910	

Request Information	
Letter Request ID: B5VR-D8QZL-HJVCG	Specialty: Urology ⓘ
Application Type: Residency	Letter Type: Standardized
AAMC Service: ERAS	Department Chair Letter: No ⓘ
Season/Cycle: 2027	Right to View Letter: Waived

CONTINUE

Author Details

In the second step, authors or their designees will provide additional background information:

- Whether you are the author or uploading on another person's behalf
- If the letter writer is the program director who supervised the applicant's postgraduate medical training
 - Only applicable to current or prior residents and/or fellowship applicants.

AAMC Letter Writer Portal My Requests Contact Us

Request Info **Author Details** Evaluation Letter Preview & Submit

Primary Author Information Saved at 10:44 PM

The following information was provided by the requestor.

Author Information Author Name: Author Name Author Email: example@aamc.org	Requestor Information Requestor Name: Applicant Name Requestor Preferred Name: A. Preferred
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The information you provide here will accompany your submission and may be shared with any programs reviewing your letter.

* Are you the letter author or are you uploading on someone else's behalf?
 I am the author I am uploading for someone else

* Is the author of this letter the Program Director who supervised this applicant's postgraduate medical training (applies to current or prior residents/fellows only)?
 Yes No

* Primary Author First Name * Primary Author Last Name

* Primary Author Email

* Primary Author Phone

* Primary Author Institution

* Primary Author Degree(s)

* Primary Author Present Position Title(s)

Filling the Urology SLOE Form Part 1

Complete the SLOE in the integrated letter writer portal.

- Directly provide your evaluation in the web-based form.
- 5 Sections:
 - **Additional Letter Information**
 - Writer Background
 - Applicant Competencies Evaluation
 - Overall Evaluation
 - Written Comments

*Urology SLOE PDF
Sample Template*



AAMC Letter Writer Portal My Requests Contact Us

Request Info Author Details **Evaluation Letter** Preview & Submit

Urology Standardized Letter of Evaluation Saved at 10:45 PM

Requestor Information Requestor Name: Applicant Name Requestor Preferred Name: A. Preferred	Request Information Application Type: Residency Specialty: Urology ⓘ
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Request Note:

Additional Letter Information

*1. Is this a group letter?
 Yes No

*Additional Author Name(s) and Position(s) (Please specify)

300 characters left out of 300

*2. Is this applicant a Home or Away student?
 Home - NOTE: Home may be selected by an "adopted" home program where the applicant has spent significant time if an applicant attends a medical school without an affiliated urology residency program.
 Away - NOTE: Away should be selected if the applicant rotated in your department as external rotators ("Sub-I's")
 Not applicable

Filling the Urology SLOE Form Part 2

Complete the SLOE in the integrated letter writer portal.

- Directly provide your evaluation in the web-based form.
- 5 Sections:
 - Additional Letter Information
 - **Writer Background**
 - Applicant Competencies Evaluation
 - Overall Evaluation
 - Written Comments

*Urology SLOE PDF
Sample Template*



Writer Background

*3. On average, in a given year, how many urology Sub-Is do you evaluate who apply to urology?

*4. What was the nature of your relationship with the applicant? (select all that apply) I was/am their...

- Clinical faculty/supervisor (i.e., oversaw and provided hands-on guidance or feedback when applicant saw patients)
- Clerkship supervisor/director (i.e., responsible for rotation curriculum and evaluation)
- Research mentor
- Specialty/Career advisor
- Associate Residency Program Director
- Department Chair/Section Chief
- Residency Program Director (i.e., if you were the applicant's official program director while they were a resident in training)
- I did not interact directly with the applicant
- Other

*5. In what setting(s) did you observe the applicant's performance? (select all that apply)

- Didactics, conference, or classroom
- Research (lab, research project, or writing a paper)
- Operating room/procedure clinic
- Inpatient service
- Outpatient service/clinic
- Private Practice
- Extracurricular/Volunteer/Committee activity
- Feedback from others (e.g., faculty, fellows, residents)
- Other

*6. Over what period did you interact with the applicant in this capacity?

Start Date	End Date
<input type="text" value="05/2025"/>	<input type="text" value="05/2026"/>
MM/YYYY	MM/YYYY

*7. What was your typical level of contact with the applicant in this capacity?

- Less than once a week
- Once a week

Filling the Urology SLOE Form Part 3

Complete the SLOE in the integrated letter writer portal.

- Directly provide your evaluation in the web-based form.
- 5 Sections:
 - Additional Letter Information
 - Writer Background
 - **Applicant Competencies Evaluation**
 - Overall Evaluation
 - Written Comments

***Urology SLOE PDF
Sample Template***



Applicant Evaluation

Evaluate the applicant's proficiency on each competency using the following rating scale. Most applicants should receive "Meets Expectations" ratings because this reflects expected performance level of an experienced 4th year medical student. If the applicant is rated in the "Far Exceeds Expectations" category, use the space provided to justify your rating.

Far Exceeds Expectations - Functions at the expected level of a PGY-2 urology resident.
Exceeds Expectations - Mostly functions at the expected level of a PGY-1/intern, but occasionally functions at the expected level of a PGY-2 urology resident.
Above Expectations - Functions at the expected level of a PGY-1/intern.
Meets Expectations - Functions at the expected level of a 4th year medical student.
Below Expectations - Functions at the expected level of a 3rd year or lower medical student.
Unable to Rate - No opportunity to observe performance.

*8. Knowledge Base – Level of general and urologic medical knowledge.

Below Expectations Meets Expectations Above Expectations Exceeds Expectations Far Exceeds Expectations Unable to Rate

*If you selected Far Exceeds Expectations for Knowledge Base, please provide a behavioral example(s) to justify your rating.

300 characters left out of 300

*9. Patient Care – Ability to develop and justify an appropriate differential diagnosis and a cohesive treatment plan.

Below Expectations Meets Expectations Above Expectations Exceeds Expectations Far Exceeds Expectations Unable to Rate

*10. Technical Aptitude – Surgical intuition, ability to learn new techniques and ability to perform basic urologic procedures.

Below Expectations Meets Expectations Above Expectations Exceeds Expectations Far Exceeds Expectations Unable to Rate

*11. Teamwork – Engages with patients, peers, and interprofessional team members to constructively share information, support coordinated decision-making, and work effectively as part of a care team toward common goals to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

Below Expectations Meets Expectations Above Expectations Exceeds Expectations Far Exceeds Expectations Unable to Rate

Filling the Urology SLOE Form Part 4

Complete the SLOE in the integrated letter writer portal.

- Directly provide your evaluation in the web-based form.
- 5 Sections:
 - Additional Letter Information
 - Writer Background
 - Applicant Competencies Evaluation
 - **Overall Evaluation**
 - Written Comments

*Urology SLOE PDF
Sample Template*



Overall Evaluation

*19. What is your prediction of success for this applicant in a urology residency?

Poor Good Excellent Outstanding Unable to Rate

*20. If you were ranking this applicant for your residency program they would be...

Would not rank

Lower rank (better than not matching)

Middle rank (would be fine if they match with us)

Higher rank (would be excited if they match with us)

Highest rank (top choice for matching with us)

Not applicable

Filling the Urology SLOE Form Part 5

Complete the SLOE in the integrated letter writer portal.

- Directly provide your evaluation in the web-based form.
- 5 Sections:
 - Additional Letter Information
 - Writer Background
 - Applicant Competencies Evaluation
 - Overall Evaluation
 - **Written Comments**

*Urology SLOE PDF
Sample Template*



Written Comments

*21. Please describe what makes this applicant stand out the most from their peers that will contribute to their success as a resident.

300 characters left out of 300

*22. Please describe where this applicant can develop their skills to become a more well-rounded resident.

300 characters left out of 300

*23. Please include any additional comments (not addressed above) about why you think this applicant will be well-suited to a career in urology (may include comments from non-faculty, e.g., residents, staff).

800 characters left out of 800

✓ Saved at 10:45 PM

BACK

Preview and Submit

Preview the letter evaluation prior to submitting for applicant use.

The screenshot shows the 'Preview & Submit' page in the AAMC Letter Writer Portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'AAMC Letter Writer Portal' on the left and 'Author Name AN', 'My Requests', and 'Contact Us' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a progress indicator with four steps: 'Request Info', 'Author Details', 'Evaluation Letter', and 'Preview & Submit' (which is highlighted in green). The main content area is titled 'Preview & Submit' and includes a warning: 'Please review the information below for accuracy and completeness.' Under 'Request Information', there are four fields: 'Letter Request ID: 8D5L-BMVNL-VN5BC', 'Application Type: Residency', 'AAMC Service: ERAS', 'Specialty: Plastic Surgery-Integrated', 'Letter Type: Standardized', and 'Department Chair Letter: No'. Below this is a 'Submission Draft' section showing a preview of a 'Standardized Letter of Evaluation'. The preview includes sections for 'OUTLIER RATING JUSTIFICATION' (with sub-sections for 'Technical Proficiency - FAR EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS' and 'Resilience - TOP 1%'), and 'OTHER WRITTEN COMMENTS'. At the bottom of the preview area, there is an 'Acknowledgements' section with a checkbox and the text '* I have verified the information above and it is correct.' There are 'BACK' and 'SUBMIT' buttons at the bottom right of the main content area. The footer contains copyright information for AAMC 2026 and various links.

Manage Letter Requests

The portal dashboard allows users to track pending and completed requests:

- View request history
- Sort and filter by letter type, date, and status
- View .pdf of past document submissions

Users can customize dashboard columns.

The screenshot displays the 'My Requests' dashboard in the AAMC Letter Writer Portal. The interface includes a search bar, a 'SHOW / HIDE' toggle, and a table of requests. The table has columns for Applicant, Letter Type, Request Date, Status Date, AAMC Service, Status, and Action. The 'Completed' tab is active, and the table lists five requests with their respective details and status indicators.

Applicant	Letter Type	Request Date	Status Date	AAMC Service	Status	Action
Applicant, ERAS AAMC ID: 21539758 Request ID: H7DP-4CNGJ-RN45Q	Narrative Letter	Feb 25, 2026	Mar 04, 2026	ERAS	Completed	[PDF] [Up]
Applicant, ERAS AAMC ID: 21539758 Request ID: 86C7-62MW8-WBW...	Narrative Letter	Feb 25, 2026	Feb 25, 2026	ERAS	Completed	[PDF] [Up]
Applicant, ERAS AAMC ID: 21539758 Request ID: R92J-WLJ5J-VF26H	Narrative Letter	Feb 24, 2026	Feb 24, 2026	ERAS	Imported	[PDF] [Up]
Applicant, ERAS AAMC ID: 21539758 Request ID: G5PX-PFJ8Z-H28LW	Narrative Letter	Feb 11, 2026	Feb 20, 2026	ERAS	Imported	[PDF] [Up]
Applicant, ERAS AAMC ID: 21539758 Request ID: 7MFD-Q2JW2-RC4M...	Narrative Letter	Feb 19, 2026	Feb 20, 2026	ERAS	Imported	[PDF] [Up]

Total Items: 5 Items/page: 10 Page 1 of 1

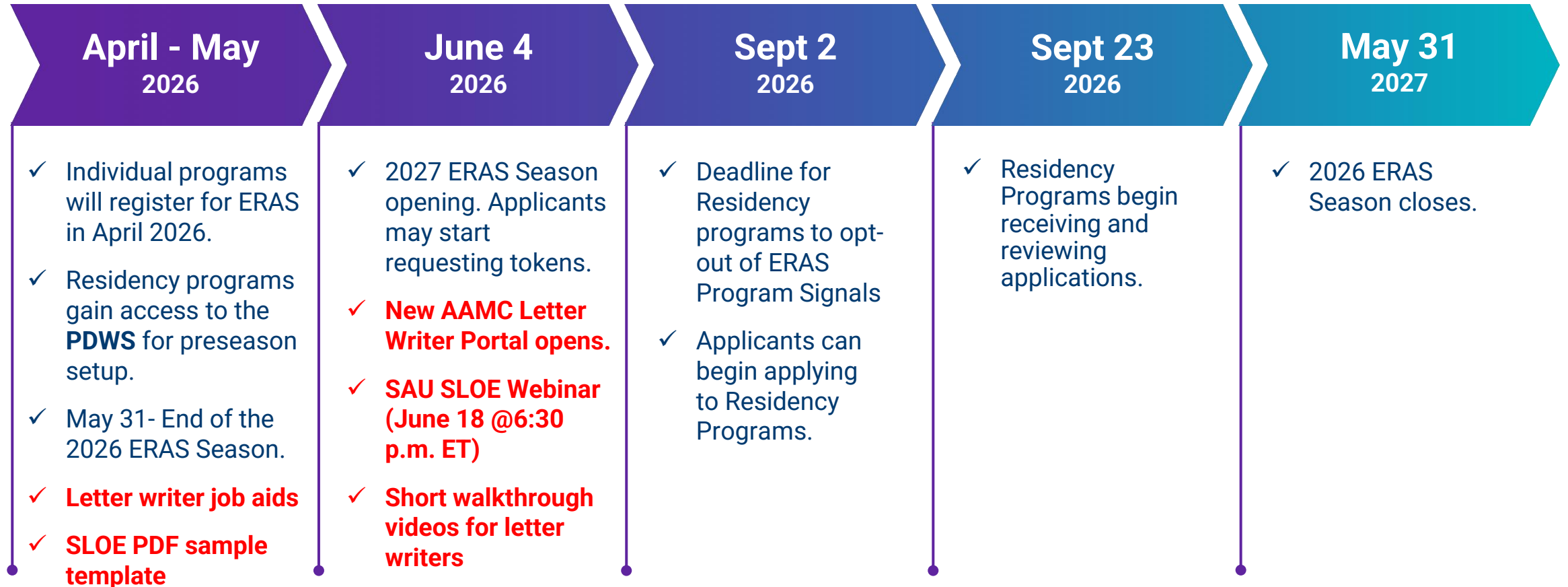
SAU Guidance on Submitting Letters

- Be clear when requesting the letter from the author on the type of letter being solicited.

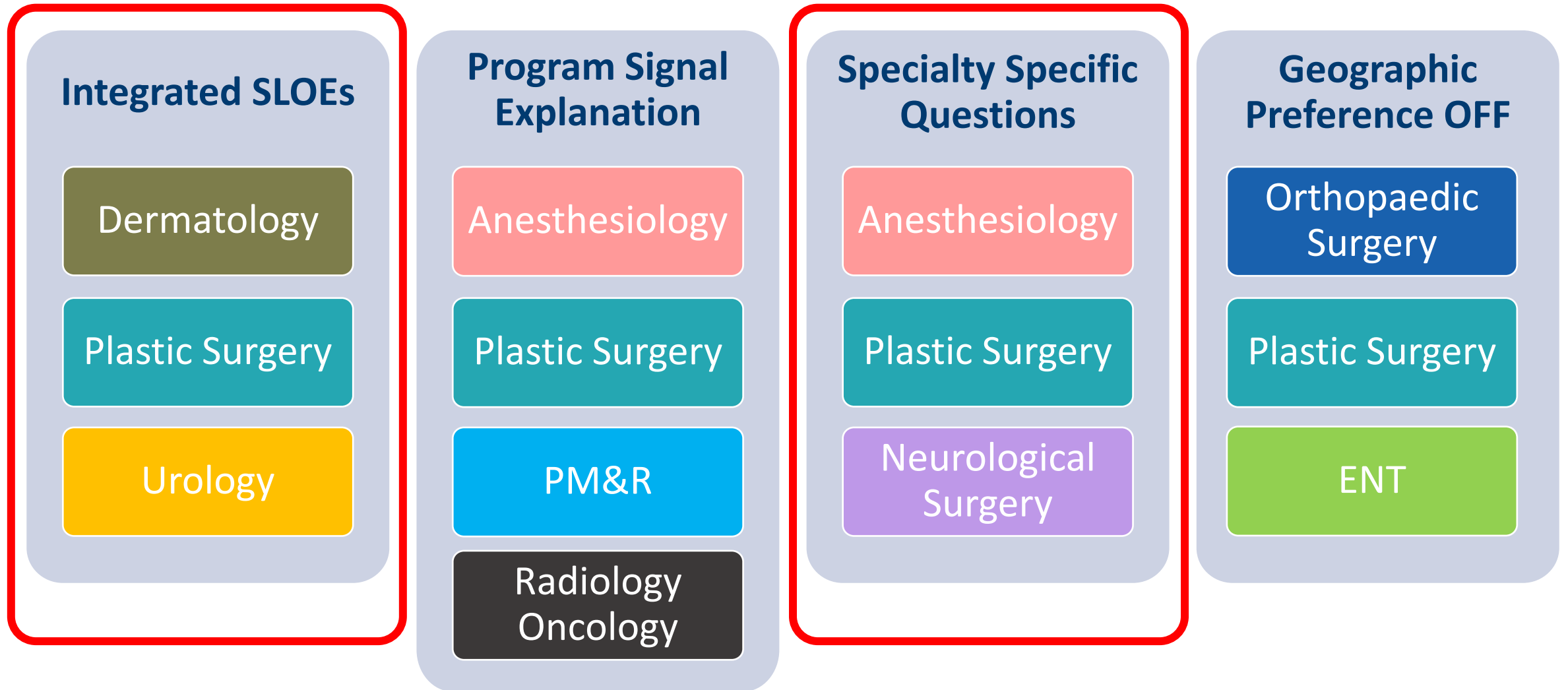
$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 2 & + & 1-2 & = & 3-4 \\ \text{SLOE} & & \text{Narrative} & & \text{Total Letters} \\ \text{(Required)} & & & & \end{array}$$

Key ERAS Dates for Residency Applicants

2027 ERAS September Fellowship Cycle



2027 MyERAS Specialty Customizations



Program Signal Statements and Specialty Specific Essays



Program Signal Statement responses often yield themes around Culture & Mission, but this differs by specialty and applicant type.



Specialty-specific essay prompts involving reflection or learning tend to elicit stronger responses than accountability-focused competencies.



Applicants generally use the full character length allotments in their essay responses, although IMGs tend to write less than non-IMGs.



Essay responses should *not* be used in isolation. They can be one input in a holistic review process, complementing but not replacing letters, experiences, or academic metrics.



Check out the webinar, **MyERAS Content Refresh: Evaluation of New Specialty Specific Essays**



Conclusions | Specialty-specific Essays

1 | A vast majority of responses demonstrated alignment to at least one target competency

2 | Across specialties, prompts involving reflection, learning, or self-awareness typically produce more *Moderate-to-Strong Evidence* of target competencies

3 | Applicants gravitate toward reflection, self-regulation, and interpersonal behaviors more readily than primary clinical or operational actions

4 | Specialty questions linked to an Accountability competency yield overwhelmingly Weak Evidence responses

5 | Across specialties, MD, DO, US-IMG, and Non-US IMG applicant responses do not often diverge meaningfully in terms of demonstrated evidence or competencies

Next Steps

- Visit and share our available resources and recorded webinars.
- Reach out to ERASRMTeam@aamc.org and express interest in specialty pilots.
- Contact the [AAMC Support Center](#) for technical assistance.

What You Need to Know About the 2027 ERAS Application Season



Watch the webinar: Evaluation of New Specialty Specific Essays and Signal Statements



Watch the webinar: Introducing Scholarly Works



Watch the webinar: Role of Geography in Applications and Interviews



Watch the webinar: Introduction to the AAMC Letter Writer Portal



ERAS for Letter Writers

