Entry-level Dental Hygiene Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science Program

The dental hygiene program information is contained on this and associated web pages:

http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/undergraduate/dentalas

Entry level students are recommended, but not required, to observe a registered dental hygienist who is presently working in clinical practice for a minimum of four hours to increase awareness of and knowledge about the profession prior to applying to the Dental Hygiene Program. Candidates are also encouraged to view the American Dental Hygienists’ Association website to view Education and Career Paths at http://www.adha.org/education-careers.

Freshmen Applicants:

High school students applying as freshmen must be attending a regionally accredited secondary school and completing four years of English, two years of Math, one year of College Prep Chemistry with a laboratory, one year of College Prep Biology with a laboratory and courses in social studies. An overall B is recommended (a GPA of 3.0 or higher). All freshmen applicants must also take the SAT or the ACT. Scores should be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. Most successful applicants have a composite SAT score of at least 900 (450 verbal, 450 math). Freshmen candidates will be given consideration to the Pre-Dental Hygiene program only.

Transfer Applicants:

Transfer applicants must have attempted 12 or more semester hours at a regionally accredited institution. Prerequisites for application to the Dental Hygiene program are listed below. These courses must be completed prior to entry to be considered for admission. All science courses must be taken within five (5) years of applying to the program. Successful completion of prerequisite coursework is an earned grade of C or better. A minimum combined GPA in prerequisite courses of 2.7 is required; overall GPA must be at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applicants are encouraged to complete all science and general education courses prior to applying to the program.

**Prerequisite Coursework: (Courses must be completed prior to entry into the program.)**

1. English Composition—3 credits (typically English 101)
2. College level Chemistry w/lab—4 credits (Introduction to Chemistry recommended)
3. Intermediate Algebra—3 credits
4. Anatomy & Physiology I w/lab—4 credits
5. Anatomy & Physiology II w/lab—4 credits

Please note that this is a full-time program. Students find it extremely difficult to work while enrolled in the two-year clinical program. Additionally, candidates will be considered for fall admission only; there is no spring admission to the program.
Entry-level Dental Hygiene Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science Program

All Applicants:

Please use this checklist to help guide you through the application process. When you can check off each item, you are ready to complete your application. See attached for required forms and applications. Once all materials have been received by Admissions, your application will be ready for review. Please allow 2-to-4 weeks for review and issuance of your decision.

All Documents Should Be Mailed To:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
University of Bridgeport
126 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Required Application Materials Checklist:

☐ Completed University of Bridgeport Application
☐ $25.00 Non-refundable Application Fee
☐ Completed Fones School of Dental Hygiene Supplemental Application
☐ High School Transcripts
☐ SAT/ACT Scores (freshmen applicants only)
☐ Transcripts from ALL Colleges/Universities Previously Attended (transfer applicants only)
☐ Two Completed Recommendation Forms – please review the Recommendation Form for specifics. Each recommendation form must be placed in a sealed envelope with the referrer’s signature across the closure and submitted with the supplemental application by the candidate.
  • One recommendation must be from a science professor/teacher/instructor.
  • One recommendation may be from a supervisor/employer.
  • Candidates may wish to submit an additional recommendation from a dental professional for a total of three (3) recommendations. (Applicants may consider their own hygienist or dentist.)
☐ Personal Essay of Approximately 500 Words
  • The personal essay helps us become acquainted with you as a person and will demonstrate your ability to organize and express your thoughts. The essay may include what you know about the dental hygiene profession, your experiences interacting with people, and your views on healthy living. You may identify your career goals and plans for succeeding in the Fones School of Dental Hygiene. You may attach additional details of circumstances or qualifications not reflected in the application. The candidate should include their name, date, and signature on the statement and submit it with the supplemental application.
DENTAL HYGIENE APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The following physical qualifications are required for admission to and participation in the Clinical Program at the UB Fones School of Dental Hygiene. These qualifications are essential for the preparation of the entry level AS and BS Degree in Dental Hygiene. Students at the School must be able to perform at a high level of competency in all phases of classroom, clinic, and laboratory activities as they will ultimately use the knowledge attained as dental hygienists.

The applicant and student must possess:

1. Critical thinking ability sufficient for judgment during clinical activities.
2. Communication abilities for effective interaction verbally and in written form with patients and other members of the health care team.
3. Coordination and use of both upper and lower limbs as required for, among other skills, the performance of dental hygiene clinical procedures and emergency skills such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.
4. Manual dexterity necessary for performance in the various clinical, dental laboratory, and basic science laboratories without posing a threat to her/himself, patients, or her/his fellow students’ safety and well-being.
5. Hearing and visual abilities, appropriately assisted, acute enough to allow the individual recordation of patient histories, to provide routine safety instructions, and perform stethoscopical and other auscultatory examinations, and to read all forms of diagnostic imaging so that she/he can adequately interpret normal, abnormal, and pathologic changes.
6. Freedom from communicable diseases sufficient for rendering safe and effective dental hygiene care.
7. Ability to obtain a dental hygiene license as some states deny licenses for certain prior felony convictions.

Applicants with disabilities will neither be summarily denied admission, nor will higher scholastic requirements be demanded of them. All persons to be eligible for acceptance to the School must be capable of demonstrating upon request their ability to perform classroom, laboratory, and clinical assignments, including microscopic work, x-ray interpretation and techniques, or the equivalent, use basic computer program skills, pass written, oral, and practical examinations, and meet all of the requirements of the School as they evolve.

The University of Bridgeport requires that students who participate in course directed activities that include patient/client interactions, internships, practicums, and student teaching undergo a background report. The confidential background report is conducted by Verified Credentials or comparable agency; all associated fees are to be paid directly to Verified Credentials by the deposited student. Credentialing will be reviewed by the Dean prior to the start of the Clinical Program.

It is the responsibility of the applicant/student to assess compliance with these requirements. By submitting an application to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, the applicant is confirming his or her ability to meet qualifications for entrance into the Fones School of Dental Hygiene program.

“Dental professionals may be at risk for exposure to numerous workplace hazards. These hazards include but are not limited to the spectrum of bloodborne pathogens, pharmaceuticals and other chemical agents, human factors, ergonomic hazards, noise, vibration, and workplace violence.” [www.osha.gov/SLTC/dentistry/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/dentistry/index.html)

It is the responsibility of Fones School of Dental Hygiene to be compliant with institutional policy and applicable regulations of local, state, and federal agencies including, but not limited to radiation hygiene and protection, ionizing radiation, hazardous materials, and bloodborne and infectious diseases. The Fones School documents guidelines consistent with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens Standards and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the Clinical Program Policies and Procedures Manual and continuously monitors compliance in order to minimize risk to safety, health, and well-being of all students, faculty, staff, and clients.

Questions on Fones School of Dental Hygiene and the University of Bridgeport policies may be answered through website pages or contacting the respective department.
What is the difference between the Associate’s Degree and the Bachelor’s Degree in Dental Hygiene?
The Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene provides students a broad academic preparation for the dental hygiene profession. Through completing the two-year curriculum, students are well prepared for national, regional, and state examinations. Graduates of the entry-level dental hygiene program who have earned licensure fulfill clinical roles for prevention, intervention, and control of oral diseases, while practicing in collaboration with other health professionals.

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene combines the professional dental hygiene curriculum with liberal arts education, and enhances the dental hygienist’s opportunities, skills, background knowledge, and professional values. With a baccalaureate degree, graduates find positions in the health industry—both public and private sectors—locally and globally.

Candidates are encouraged to “shadow” a dental hygienist in a practice setting and to view the American Dental Hygienists’ Association website to view Education and Career Paths at http://www.adha.org/education-careers.

Can I complete the program online?
The Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene may only be completed through our on-campus program, and can only be attended on a full-time basis. Students interested in pursuing the Bachelor of Science may do so on-campus or online. To be eligible for our online program, candidates must already hold a certificate or associate’s degree in dental hygiene from an accredited institution.

How long is the program?
Our Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene program is a two-year clinical program for transfer students. Freshmen should expect to complete their AS in three years, as the first year of coursework will be prerequisites as part of our Pre-Dental Hygiene program. Our Bachelor of Science curriculum is a traditional four-year program for freshman. However, the amount of time it takes transfer students to complete the BS curriculum is contingent upon the amount and specifics of eligible transfer credits.

What are you looking for from applicants to the Fones School of Dental Hygiene?
Admission to the Fones School of Dental Hygiene is highly competitive and selective. Our faculty are involved in the process from the very beginning. We are looking for students who have developed an interest in health care as a career and who have an interest in the type of curriculum we are offering. The review committee, comprised of faculty from Fones and Admissions staff, will review applications. Interviews are not required, but may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

The admissions committee considers all aspects of the application and application effort. We are looking for motivated individuals who have taken their academic preparation seriously. An applicant’s motivation for a career as a Dental Hygienist is very important in our selection process. Freshmen applications are reviewed relative to high school cumulative and science GPA, SAT/ACT scores, and completion of personal essay, recommendation forms, and supplemental application. Transfer applications are reviewed relative to undergraduate cumulative and science GPA, and completion of personal essay, recommendation forms, and supplemental application. Due to the competitive nature of the program, most successful candidates will have met more than just minimum requirements.

How many students are accepted each year?
Each fall semester, a total of 54 students are accepted into Fones for the Associate and Bachelor of Science degree clinical programs. These students are a combination of new applicants, current UB students rising from our Pre-Dental Hygiene program, and current UB students who are changing their major to Dental Hygiene. Additionally, 10-to-12 Pre-Dental Hygiene students are admitted into the Pre-Dental Hygiene program. There is no spring admission to the program.

When should I apply? Is there an application deadline?
The University of Bridgeport is a rolling admission school. However, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene is a capped program. Our guaranteed admission deadline is May 1 of each year. Admission is only guaranteed to accepted students who commit to the University with a $400 tuition deposit prior to the May 1 deadline. Any spot open after May 1 will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. As such, students are encouraged to complete their applications well in advance of May 1. We recommend completing your application by February 1 to allow ample time for consideration and associated processes.

Can I apply with prerequisite coursework still in progress?
Yes, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and complete their applications, even if prerequisite coursework is still in progress. If prerequisite coursework is still in progress during the spring semester, students will be required to submit a mid-semester grade before their file is reviewed by the committee. If acceptance is offered at that point, it will be a conditional acceptance contingent upon successful completion of prerequisite coursework.
Is there an entrance examination required for admission?
There is no entrance examination required for admission to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. However, rigorous academic standards are required for successful candidates. For additional applicant qualifications, please see the Fones School of Dental Hygiene Applicant Qualifications information page.

Is experience in the dental field required for admission?
No, experience in the dental field is not required for admission. However, applicants may benefit greatly from shadowing a hygienist. Often, the applicant’s own hygienist/dentist will accommodate shadow hours, and may then act as the optional third reference in the application process.

When will I know if I’m accepted or not?
Review of completed applications will commence on November 1 of each year, and will take place on the first and third Friday of every month thereafter. Once you have completed your application, we ask that you allow 2-to-4 weeks for review and issuance of your decision. Decision letters will be issued via mail.

Do you have a waiting list?
Each year, a new group of students may be placed on the waiting list. Final decisions will offered to these candidates by April 1. Wait list applicants who are not accepted for the academic year will not automatically be referred to the next academic year. Applicants may request reconsideration for the following academic term, and may be subject to re-review.

How much does the program cost?
The cost of tuition and fees for the 2015-2016 academic year is $36,160.00. This includes the cost of dental hygiene instruments and other “kit” items such as a blood pressure unit, magnification loupes, and tooth and skull model, but does not include room and board, books, scrubs, or additional costs associated with attending the University.

Are there scholarships available for Fones students?
All candidates will be considered for academic scholarships simply by applying to the University. Freshmen are eligible for up to $22,000 in merit-based scholarship per academic year, and transfer students are eligible for up to $16,000 in merit-based scholarship per academic year. All candidates should complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for additional financial aid opportunities and considerations.

Is your clinic on-campus? Will I be required to travel off campus to complete clinical hours?
Our state-of-the-art 30-chair learning clinic is located here on our campus in Bridgeport, CT, and is open to the public, as well as UB students, faculty, and staff. However, second year students will be required to participate in off-campus outreach in dental public health settings. Students are expected to find their own transportation to and from campus, and any outreach sites.

Can I tour campus and visit the clinic before being accepted?
Yes, it is strongly encouraged that all prospective students tour campus. However, due to HIPAA regulations, clinic tours cannot be offered during general campus visits and tours. As such, candidates are strongly encouraged to attend an Open House or Dental Hygiene Information Session. You may view upcoming events by visiting www.bridgeport.edu/events.

What is required of me once I am accepted?
Once you are accepted and have committed to the program, you will be required to submit health records and additional information to both UB and Fones. In addition to the UB Health and Immunization Records, Fones specifically requires medical, eye, and dental examinations, as well as current CPR certification, and a background check. It is the student’s responsibility to complete and comply with all requirements and any costs associated with them. All required forms and accompanying information will be sent to students via mail and email.

What is the job placement/salary outlook for hygienists?
Fones School has a strong clinical and dental public health outreach program. Student educational experiences are rich in both lecture content and clinical application of knowledge. Job placement and salary outlook have been outstanding in both a strong and weak economy. Dental and dental hygiene professionals recognize the name of the Fones School as standing for excellence in the education it provides to future dental hygienists and, most notably, for its outreach and public health services, which are considered innovative and models for other dental hygiene schools across the country.
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Supplemental Application for Admissions

Personal Data:
Name:_____________________________________________  Former Name (if applicable): __________________________ __
Student ID (UB students only):_________________________________________________________________________________
Social Security Number (required to receive financial aid): _________________________________________________________
Email (will be used throughout the application process): ___________________________________________________________
Preferred Phone: (           ) ____________________________________ Alternate Phone: (           ) ____________________
Street Address: _________________________________  Apt #: __________________________________
City: ___________________________________________  State: _______________________  Zip: ________________
I hereby agree that, if accepted, I will submit to and comply with a confidential background check conducted by Verified Credentials.
Signature: ________________________________________________________   Date: ___________________________________

Academic Data:
☐ I am applying as a freshman to the Pre-Dental Hygiene program.
☐ I am applying as a transfer student to the entry-level Associate of Science program.
☐ I am applying as a transfer student to the entry-level Bachelor of Science program.

Previous College/University Information: (Official transcripts from ALL schools are required in order to enable an admissions decision.)

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<tr>
<th>Name of College(s)</th>
<th>Major</th>
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Required Coursework (Transfer Students Only): Please list below the college/university attended, completion dates, and grade earned for each of the following dental hygiene admission requirements. Please provide a mid-semester grade if applicable. (Please note: grades earned must be a C or better to satisfy minimum admission requirements.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title (Minimum Credits)</th>
<th>College/University Attended</th>
<th>Year Completed</th>
<th>Grade Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Composition (3 cr)</td>
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<td>Intro Chemistry w/lab (4 cr)</td>
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<td>Intermediate Algebra (3 cr)</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology I (4 cr)</td>
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<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology II (4 cr)</td>
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Guaranteed Admission Deadline: May 1, 2016.
This is not an application deadline. This is a guaranteed admission deposit deadline. As such, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete their application well in advance of this date.
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Supplemental Application for Admissions

**Recommendation Information:** Two recommendation forms are required in order to enable an admissions decision. Letters of recommendation are not required but will be accepted as addendums to the required recommendation forms. Please see attached documents for official Recommendation Forms.

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<tr>
<th>Name of Referrer</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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**Personal Essay:** Please attach (do not staple) your typed personal essay, as described in the attached Admissions Guide. Include your name, date, and signature on the essay.

*Please submit Recommendation Forms and Personal Essay together with this Supplemental Application.

**Employment History:** If applicable, list your three most recent employers and/or volunteer work/extracurricular activities.

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<tr>
<th>Employer/Supervisor/(Volunteer) Activity</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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I hereby apply for admission to the University of Bridgeport and agree to abide by its regulations. The information I have provided is accurate and complete. The undersigned agrees that the information furnished on the Application for Admission, together with all information and materials of any kind received by the Office of Admissions from any source, or prepared by anyone at its request, “…shall become part of the applicant’s educational records, if accepted as a student, and will be dealt with as to confidentially and/or disclosure or inspection by the student or third parties, in accordance with the provisions of the status laws of the United States entitled “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).”

I understand that it is my responsibility to assess compliance with all requirements, including those outlined in the Applicant Qualifications page of the Admissions Requirements. By submitting an application to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, I am confirming my ability to meet qualifications for entrance into the Fones School of Dental Hygiene program.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

(If applicant is under 18, the applicant and a parent or guardian must sign.)

The University of Bridgeport admits students regardless of sex, race, color, creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accepted or made available to students of the University. The University of Bridgeport does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, political affiliation, or handicap in the administration of its education policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other University administered programs. The University of Bridgeport is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The University of Bridgeport is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and by the Board of Governors of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Recommendation Form

DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE and BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS

To the Candidate: You will need two completed recommendation forms: one from a science professor/teacher/instructor, and one from an employer/supervisor. At your discretion an optional third recommendation form may be sent from a dental professional (consider your own dental hygienist or dentist.) Provide this form to the Referrer. Please print your name on the line below.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Candidate’s Name

Check one of the following statements and sign your name below:

☐ I waive my right of access to this recommendation/evaluation and recognize that it will remain confidential.
☐ I do not waive my right of access to this recommendation/evaluation and will be able to see my evaluation.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Candidate’s Signature       Date

To the Referrer: The Candidate is applying to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. Please complete this form (print or type) and return it to the Candidate in a sealed envelope with your signature written across the closure. Thank you for your assistance.

____________________________________________________________________________________
Referrer’s Name/Degree(s)                                                                          Position/Title

Knowledge of the Candidate: (Please check (✓) all that apply.)

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<tr>
<th>I have known the Candidate for</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Month(s)</th>
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<td>I know the Candidate</td>
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<td>Nature of my contact with the Candidate</td>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Employment</td>
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Evaluation of the Candidate:

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<th>Knowledge/Preparation</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>No Basis for Comment</th>
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<td>Judgment/Analytical Ability</td>
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Overall Endorsement of the Candidate:

☐ Highly recommend      ☐ Recommend      ☐ Recommend with reservation

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Referrer’s Signature                                                                                     Date

Additional Comments: (If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper.)
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Recommendation Form

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Referrer’s Name/Degree(s)                                                                          Position/Title

Knowledge of the Candidate: (Please check (✓) all that apply.)

I have known the Candidate for ______ Year(s) _______ Month(s)

I know the Candidate   ☐ Very well       ☐ Moderately well       ☐ Slightly

Nature of my contact with the Candidate   ☐ Academic       ☐ Employment       ☐ Other ________________

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Overall Endorsement of the Candidate:

☐ Highly recommend       ☐ Recommend       ☐ Recommend with reservation

Referrer’s Signature       Date

Additional Comments: (If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper.)
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene
Recommendation Form

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_____________________________________________________________________________________
Candidate’s Name

Check one of the following statements and sign your name below:
☐ I waive my right of access to this recommendation/evaluation and recognize that it will remain confidential.
☐ I do not waive my right of access to this recommendation/evaluation and will be able to see my evaluation.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Candidate’s Signature       Date

To the Referrer: The Candidate is applying to the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene. Please complete this form (print or type) and return it to the Candidate in a sealed envelope with your signature written across the closure. Thank you for your assistance.

____________________________________________________________________________________
Referrer’s Name/Degree(s)                                                                          Position/Title

Knowledge of the Candidate: (Please check (✔) all that apply.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I have known the Candidate for</th>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Month(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I know the Candidate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Very well</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Moderately well</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Slightly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature of my contact with the Candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>☐ Other</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation of the Candidate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge/Preparation</th>
<th>Exceptional</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>No Basis for Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judgment/Analytical Ability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Relations/Conduct</td>
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<td>Ability to Accept Criticism</td>
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<td>Personal Appearance and Hygiene</td>
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<td>Emotional Maturity and Stability</td>
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<td>Organizational Skills</td>
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<td>Manual Dexterity</td>
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<td>Reliability/Responsibility</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Overall Endorsement of the Candidate:
☐ Highly recommend   ☐ Recommend   ☐ Recommend with reservation

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Referrer’s Signature                                                                                     Date

Additional Comments: (If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper.)