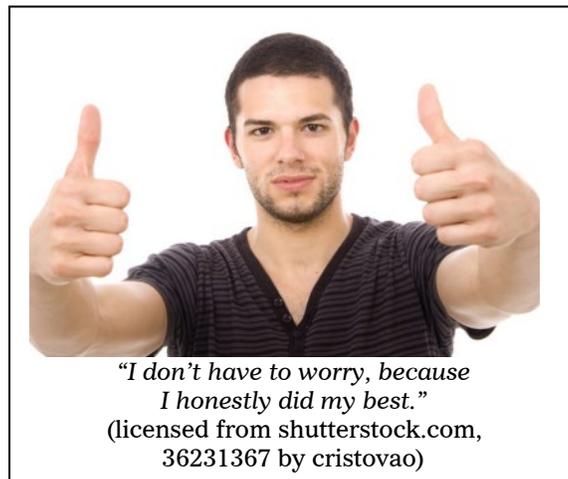


Recommendation Criteria

Use the chart below to determine whether or not you should be asking me for a recommendation. (Although these guidelines are unique to me, a number of them would probably apply to other teachers as well.)

The two basic criteria you should use in selecting teachers to write recommendations are how well you did in the class, and how well the teacher knows you—both academic and personality variables are important in the college admissions process. The criteria below indicate some of the specific factors you should use in assessing whether or not I am the right person to ask. They also indicate the factors I will consider in evaluating your request for a recommendation. Any factors for which “Not a Candidate” is indicated would normally cause me to decline to write a recommendation, but do note special circumstances where those are indicated.

Factor	Strong Candidate	Ok Candidate	Not a Candidate
Academic Grade in the Class ¹	High to middle A	Borderline A to middle B	Low B (except in special circumstances); C or lower
Essay Grades	A average	B average	C or lower average
Conduct Grade in the Class	S		N or U
AP Participation	Took the AP		Didn't take the AP ²
AP Score	5 or 4	3	2 or 1 (depending on circumstances) ³
CST Score ⁴	Advanced	High Proficient	Middle proficient or lower ⁵
Academic Integrity	Did not cheat		Cheated



¹ Grades refer to final semester grades. If you struggle at the beginning of a class but are doing well by the end, then you can still be a strong candidate. Colleges like students who keep pushing until they succeed.

² Hypothetically, there could be special circumstances, but keep in mind that financial aid is available. See me if there are special circumstances.

³ A low AP score can reflect general lack of effort and/or ability, or at least effort on the exam. However, I do recognize that anyone can have an off day, so if you earn a 2, check with me if you still want a recommendation under these circumstances. (A 1 is hard to explain on the “off day” theory.)

⁴ These don't come out until after your recommendation request deadline, but there haven't usually been unpleasant surprises. If there are, we will need to talk...

⁵ A low CST score for a student in an AP class can reflect lack of effort and/or ability, or at least lack of effort on the exam. However, I do recognize that anyone can have an off day, so if you score proficient, check with me if you still want a recommendation under these circumstances. (A score of basic or lower is hard for an AP student to explain on the “off day” theory.)