

# Right to Inspect Recommendation Letters

**Some applicants are unsure how to answer this application question in regards to the online recommendation:**

- I waive my right to access this report.
- I do not waive my right to access this report.

- **If you check “I waive my right to access this report.”:** You will not be able to view the letters submitted on your behalf, even if you are admitted and enroll at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.
- **If you check “I do not waive my right to access this report.”:** If you are admitted and enroll at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, your letters will become part of your student record, and you will have the right to inspect that record (including your letters) after you enroll. Please note that you **ONLY** have this right if you enroll at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University. If you do not enroll, you do not have the right to view your letters.
- Please note that both your recommendation providers and the Owen Graduate School of Management can see whether you have chosen to waive your right to inspect your recommendations.

## **What does this question mean?**

When you waive your right to view your recommendation, our system notifies your recommendation providers of your decision. As they submit a recommendation on your behalf, it may be useful for them to know if you will possibly have access to this recommendation in the future. Also, Owen Graduate School of Management can see if you have waived this right, which may be useful for them as they review your application.

## **So, should I waive my right?**

Only you can decide whether or not to waive your right to inspect letters of recommendation. If you are uncertain, you may wish to ask the advice of people you know and trust (e.g. faculty, current graduate students, etc.). Many websites also discuss the pros and cons, and can be found through an online query.

## **Why do we ask this question in the first place?**

To put it simply, the University is required to offer this choice. The U.S. *Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)* gives all enrolled students the right to inspect their student records, and your application will become a part of this student record if you are admitted and enroll at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.