Dear Applicants,

Applicants generally use a letter from a current or former professor. Providing a letter from a professor is the strongest way to represent your academic abilities.

Even if you have been out of school for years, it’s possible that a former prof will remember you. Or you can perhaps jog his or her memory about your capabilities by providing a past essay or assignment, a list of academic awards and achievements or transcripts. If it’s just not possible to have a former professor write the letter, perhaps a supervisor/employer could provide the reference.

It is appropriate for the professor or employer to comment on things like general impressions of your aptitude, contributions in class, work with others, writing/language skills, problem solving ability, creativity, organizational skills, research ability, technical expertise, research software savvy, or any other academic asset you would bring to our program.

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR REFEREE ANSWER THIS QUESTION IN THEIR LETTER:**
How would you compare this applicant to other students in your program? For example: Top 1%? Top 10%?

Your referees’ impressions of you can be quite impactful. It is not inappropriate to ask a referee if they are comfortable writing a **strong** letter of reference.

Thank you and good luck!
From the Child Study & Education MA Program