Graduate Application

Letters of Recommendation
Make Request - Recommender

- Consider your past interaction with intended recommender
  - Grade achieved in class
  - Positive/negative interactions
- Inquire directly – Would you feel comfortable writing a positive letter?
  - Accept no for an answer
- Arrange face-to-face visit
Become Familiar with Program Webpage

- NMSU – Communication Disorders Department
- Letter of reference form
Waive Right of Access

- Sign and agree to waive right of access
  - Letter is signed and sealed
  - Cannot under any situation read letter
- Do not sign – do not waive right of access
  - Letter is not sealed
  - May read letter in advance
Considerations

- **Waive access**
  - Letter more candid – includes impressions
  - More weight assigned to letter

- **Do not waive access**
  - Letter likely to be more objective – no subjective information
  - LESS weight assigned to letter
Choose Recommender Wisely

- Choose individual who knows you well
- Ask recommender if they feel comfortable writing a favorable letter.
  - Be accepting if they say no.
- Hierarchy
  - CD Professor/instructor
  - Other Professor/instructor
  - Non-instructional – personal reference
Questions

- valdez1@nmsu.edu