

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Not Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202410\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Gerardo Chin-Leo  
Recommenders Institution: Evergreen State College  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Dr.  
Contact Name: Jordan Elie  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 12/20/2022 01:00 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108556052

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.  
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 11/29/2022 02:41 PM  
Modified Time: 12/20/2022 01:00 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



December 20, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a letter in support of **Jordan Elie** who is applying for to the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program. Jordan was my student in Marine Environments (ME, Winter and Spring 2022). ME was an advanced science course focusing on marine environments and life. This class included library and field/lab research components and well as teaching of methods for quantitative data analysis.

Jordan showed exceptional progress in ME gaining advanced knowledge of marine science. Jordan's performance in this class was excellent demonstrating a strong handle of the oceanography and marine ecology concepts presented in lectures. In field and laboratory exercises, Jordan completed all field observations assignments and demonstrated a consistently good ability to observe and describe marine organisms. Jordan's lab reports were very good showing understanding of the concepts relevant to each activity and ability to apply statistical tools to data analysis. Jordan consistently and thoroughly completed all laboratory and computing workshop assignments, demonstrating strong engagement with all the topics.

Jordan successfully completed a library research project on the nudibranch, *Hermissenda crassicornis*. Jordan's written report demonstrated very good use of primary, secondary and tertiary source material. Jordan's final presentation did a very good job of summarizing primary research and demonstrating an excellent understanding of the chosen subject matter. In addition, Jordan also acquired experience designing research by preparing a formal research proposal. Jordan and a collaborator completed a proposal on "Early Benthic Diatom Settlement on Artificial and Natural Substrates in an Urbanized Estuary Within South Puget Sound" where they proposed to experimentally compare the colonization of microalgae on manmade and natural materials right off of the Evergreen Beach. The proposal did an excellent job of summarizing primary research, demonstrating understanding of the research, designing research to address hypotheses, understanding of logistics and work distribution, creatively addressing broader impacts and using proper citation formatting. The proposal was well-received by classmates and placed second in the mock panel exercise. Jordan received

excellent feedback and praise from his collaborator regarding Jordan's work habits, collaborative skills, leadership and "fantastic writing skills."

Jordan also did excellent work conducting field research. In spring quarter, students in teams worked on two research projects. One was to examine bivalve and larval ecology at a beach, and the other was to study the succession of phytoplankton species at a local estuary. Students then choose one of the datasets to analyze . Jordan successfully completed lab and field work in both beach and estuary. For the data analysis exercise, Jordan chose to examine the phytoplankton data. Jordan's team did an excellent job of analyzing the data, which included many physical, chemical, biological and meteorological measurements over various space and time scales. The team effectively identified the various hypotheses to be tested and equitably distributed the work. Their presentation of the results was excellent with an organized and clear report of salient trends and a logical discussion on the possible explanations for the observed changes in phytoplankton during the study period. Jordan's contribution to the team effort was substantial focusing on the analysis of silicate, nutrient ratios and determining variations of the several physical/chemical measurements over small space scales. Through this project, Jordan demonstrated a very good ability to analyze data and to work collaboratively.

In summary, as an undergraduate student, Jordan demonstrated a commitment to engaged learning, collaboration and showed proficiency with a range of scientific skills. In addition, he acquired substantial experiences designing and conducting research. Jordan is well-prepared to take on independent research in graduate school. He has also communicated to me his desire to pursue a career in environmental studies by completing an MES degree. I think that Jordan would be a good fit to the MES program, and I strongly support his application.

Sincerely,

Gerardo Chin-Leo, Ph.D.  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505  
360-867-6514