

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

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

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Patricia Heiser  
Recommenders Institution: Carroll College  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓  
Received Date: 01/13/2023 09:34 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108439376

Recommenders Title: Associate Professor, Dir. Environmental Program  
Contact Name: Joseph O'Sullivan  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received  
Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.  
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.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 11/14/2022 12:53 PM  
Modified Time: 01/13/2023 09:34 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier

# CARROLL COLLEGE



January 12, 2022

Graduate Program  
Evergreen State College  
Olympia WA

Dear Graduate Committee and Advisors,

I am writing to recommend Joe O'Sullivan and his application to pursue a Master of Environmental Science at Evergreen. I have known Joe since he came to Carroll College as a freshman Environmental Science Major in 2018. I have been his instructor in numerous courses from introductory level earth science to upper level landscape analysis and soils courses, and I just returned from a week in the desert on a field course that Joe was part of.

Joe is a quiet industrious, interested, and inquisitive student. He asks good questions and does solid work in all aspects of the field-based courses I teach. My classes are often centered around open-ended authentic research questions. While some students are initially frustrated by the 'unknown' outcomes of course project work, Joe really seemed to embrace the idea of doing 'real science'. He was a team lead on a lake sediment coring project in one of my classes and demonstrated leadership and also mentorship of students who struggled in some areas. He presented a research poster with his team at our annual undergraduate research symposium. Joe is typically pretty quiet, but it was great to see him confidently and enthusiastically present the research he did.

I enjoyed reading Joe's application letter, as I wondered what direction he might go for graduate study. He is inherently interdisciplinary and also keen on working on some of the human and societal aspects of environmental science. He truly understands and embraces the importance of interdisciplinary connections and approaches needed to solve the problems we face. He genuinely wants to contribute to make this world a better place. He is really excited by your program and the freedom he will have to forge his graduate coursework and research. I think Evergreen is a great fit for him, and he a great fit for Evergreen.

Joe was a student athlete here at Carroll, running cross-country and track every year of his undergraduate career. Our athletes work hard, train hard, and sometimes miss classes. Some students are better than others about keeping up with work and taking responsibility for missed classes. Joe was always great about inquiring ahead about things he might miss, never got behind, and always excelled despite a sometimes grueling travel schedule. Joe is also a quiet, uncomplaining, hard worker. They had a very challenging geologic mapping and cross-section project in one of my courses. It was only at the end, when he had completed one of the better maps in the class, that he mentioned he was partially color blind! Which means the work had to be twice as hard for him, but he excelled anyway, without complaint or mention of his extra challenge. Finally, I just spend over a week in the desert southwest with Joe and ten other students on a Desert Ecology field course. I am an early riser, and almost every morning I encountered Joe returning from his morning run ...with 6 to 12 new birds on his species list, and a bunch of questions for us. Just the kind of student we all want!

# CARROLL COLLEGE



I advised numerous graduate students before moving to a primarily undergraduate institution. So I can tell you confidently that you Joe will be great student in your lab and in your program. He has a great deal to offer, but is also humble, good natured, mature, a team player, and hard worker. I encouraged him to consider graduate study and I recommend him highly for graduate work. You will be lucky to have him on your team at Evergreen, and I know he will gain a great deal from your program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Patricia Heiser

Associate Professor Earth Science and Director Environmental Program  
[pheiser@carroll.edu](mailto:pheiser@carroll.edu) 406 447-4341