

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Olivia Orosco
Recommenders Institution: University of Washington
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Teaching Assistant
Contact Name: Max Deschenes
Recommendation Waiver Choice:
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 05/22/2024 12:00 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000118619496

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

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:
Time since last contact with applicant:
Relationship with Applicant:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:
Communication Skills - Oral:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:
Ability to handle stress:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:
Openness to feedback:
Ability to work in a team:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Applicant as productive member of group:
Applicant most significant strengths:
Responsibility/reliability:
Communication skills - written:
Ability to work independently:
Ability to think critically:
Ability to think creatively:
Potential for leadership:
Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 05/12/2024 04:27 PM
Modified Time: 05/22/2024 12:00 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



To MES at Evergreen State College-

Thank you for considering Max for your Masters Program. Max Deschenes was an undergraduate student in my Geography 360: GIS and Mapping lab section during Winter 2024. Max was a good communicator and committed to not only turning in great coursework, but also to understanding the content and improving and growing his GIS skills. In this introductory course Max learned the fundamentals of GIS and mapping using QGIS software. In the course he worked through lab assignments that practiced sourcing, cleaning and interpreting data, and the fundamentals of map making. This course also focused a critical and thoughtful lens on the responsibilities of the map maker and data interpreter themselves.


Max's final project for the course, for which he chose to look at Ecological Change in Washington State, reflecting his academic interests, was on landslides. This project was independently conceptualized and completed -- building on and putting into practice course skills. For this project he looked at how landslide hazards were distributed throughout WA counties by ecoregion. He sourced, cleaned, imported and joined DNR data, performed various spatial queries and made thoughtful decisions around cartography in his final map and accompanying written process and analysis paper. Max's final project stood out as being clean, clear and included thoughtful analysis and citations.

Beyond this, and what I find to often be most important to student success as courses get more challenging, or as programs, especially graduate ones become more independent, was Max's willingness and ability to advocate for himself when he needed support in class. Whether that was sending an email when the submission portal got picky about file type to make sure I could see his work, to taking accountability and agency when personal things got in the way of a deadline and he needed help figuring out a technical step that was proving challenging. These strong verbal communication skills and self advocacy make me excited to see Max pursuing education and eventually work in the GIS field.

Max's interest in environmental studies was clear throughout his time in GEOG360 and the Masters in Environmental Studies at Evergreen State College would help him build his skills and prepare him for his goal to work in the GIS field to better understand the impacts of climate change. His time at UW, as a well rounded student, with diverse interests and skill sets, will

make him a wonderful addition to your program and I am excited to see where these next steps lead him.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by a series of loops and a final 'O'.

Olivia Orosco
PhD Candidate
University of Washington