

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:
Caravella McCuistian

Recommenders Title: Assistant Professor,
Department of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences

Recommenders Institution: University of California, San
Francisco

Contact Name:
Jaime Dumoit Smith

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I do not waive my right to
review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver
Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date:
03/08/2024 03:20 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant
without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000117752743

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

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

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 02/16/2024 08:17 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 03/08/2024 03:20 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

March 8th, 2024

Dear Admissions Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Jaime Smith for admittance into the Masters Program for Environmental Studies at the Evergreen State College. It is my understanding that your program includes the incorporation of natural sciences, social sciences, traditional ecological knowledge, public policy, and environmental humanities through a social justice lens to prepare students for professional environmental work. Ms. Smith is a hard-working individual who would undoubtedly be a successful student in your graduate program.

I first met Ms. Smith in 2018 when I came to the University of California, San Francisco as a predoctoral trainee. At this time, she was serving as a research manager for my mentor Dr. Jim Sorensen, who had a program of research focused on improving treatment for people with substance use disorder (SUD). I quickly observed the pivotal role that Ms. Smith played on the research team in monitoring budgetary and regulatory requirements and supervising research staff. She was very clearly the “glue” that held the research lab together. While completing my training at UCSF, I continued to collaborate with Ms. Smith while participating in other training programs where Ms. Smith held a management role including the NIDA funded Postdoctoral Traineeship in Substance Use Disorders Treatment and Services Research and the Learning for Early Careers in Addiction & Diversity (LEAD) Program. Once recruited to faculty, I immediately sought Ms. Smith’s support as a research manager for my own lab. As an irreplaceable part of our research team, Ms. Smith collaborates on projects related to reducing health inequities among people with SUD, including the exploration of policy impacts on topics such as smoking cessation and overdose prevention.

One of Ms. Smith’s most impressive strength is her expertise in data interpretation and analysis. Her skills in grant management and development are renowned by many faculty members within my department. She successfully monitors the budgets of over fourteen grants and other research-related funds. Her ability to maintain and analyze complex databases tracking numerous types of expenses has allowed myself and other faculty to monitor current funding, project for future expenses, and prepare new grant applications.

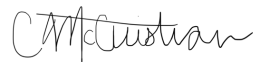
In addition to receiving research management support, I have also had the privilege of collaborating with Ms. Smith on several research studies where I have observed Ms. Smith’s strong critical reasoning skills. From 2019-2023, we both served on a multi-disciplinary research team examining ethical dilemmas facing substance use counselors to inform the development of new ethics training. As an active member of this team, Ms. Smith participated in the coding of 20 qualitative interviews and co-authored two peer-

reviewed manuscripts. In 2023, she led the submission of an abstract to the College on Problems of Drug Dependence entitled “Comparing Racial and Ethnic Differences on Access to Wellness Services for People in Substance Use Treatment” which was just accepted for a poster presentation for the annual meeting in June 2024.

In my work with Ms. Smith, I have been consistently impressed with her strong communication skills. Her impeccable level of detail leads to careful and clear communication in both written and verbal formats. She is uniquely successful in describing complex topics (e.g., regulatory or budgetary issues) to individuals less versed in the topic. Her communication is always professional and timely, while remaining warm and friendly. This has fostered a supportive and collaborative environment within our weekly lab meetings.

Over the last five years, Ms. Smith has become one of my most valued colleagues and a good friend. She remains steadfast in her involvement in supporting and disseminating SUD treatment research, but her passion for promoting health equity extend beyond her professional responsibilities. She has shared impressive goals of joining her passion for social justice and environmental studies together to explore how to support people with SUD using natural healing opportunities. This idea is quintessential to Ms. Smith’s character.

In summary, I strongly recommend Ms. Smith for admittance into your program. I am confident that she will excel in graduate school and will be an ideal candidate for your program.



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