

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Incomplete	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Bradley Proctor	Recommenders Title:	Lead Faculty
Recommenders Institution:	The Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Orion Gee
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	03/22/2024 11:34 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000117967294	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
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Other Information

Created Time:	03/07/2024 03:46 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	03/22/2024 11:34 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



March 22, 2024

Dear graduate admissions committee,

I write to strongly recommend Orion Gee for admission to the Master of Environmental Studies program at the Evergreen State College. I taught Orion in *American Popular Music: A People's History* in the spring of 2022. The program was a social and cultural history of the United States focusing on popular music. Orion succeeded in this program at very high levels. Although the content of this program focused on history and cultural studies, his success in Evergreen's interdisciplinary, student-centered learning environment stands as excellent proof of his ability to succeed at similarly high levels in graduate study, especially around his interests in environmental studies.

Orion had perfect attendance in the program and was consistently a welcoming and constructive participant in class. Orion frequently asked productive questions and made insightful contributions to both large class meetings and small group conversations. In multiple in-class presentations, he shared his work confidently and comfortably and always engaged classmates at high intellectual levels.

Orion's written work in the program was outstanding. Not only is his writing thoughtful and clear, Orion always used the opportunity of doing assignments to explore his own interests, demonstrating curiosity and initiative. For his first major essay, Orion analyzed racist stereotypes against Native Americans in nineteenth-century sheet music. Orion's other assignments were similarly excellent. His essays had clear structures and engaging writing, and all of his work demonstrated good understanding of content, excellent historical analysis, sharp thinking, and strong communication skills.

The major project of the quarter could take the form of a traditional essay or a more creative project that students could develop on their own. Orion explored the independent musical genre called "Vada Vadam" based on a song from the band The Garden. He created a fun and engaging mix CD that demonstrated the genre's characteristics and boundaries. Orion also wrote explanatory notes for each song and a concluding essay that effectively incorporated analysis of the songs with a discussion of the wider technological, commercial, and cultural trends that independent music scenes both influence and exist within. This creative, thoughtful, and compelling project effectively reflected

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the major themes of the program and demonstrated again Orion's ambition, initiative, and strong academic skills.

Although I only worked with Orion for one quarter, his academic work in *American Popular Music* was of such a high caliber that I know he will be able to thrive in Evergreen's MES program. He has already demonstrated an ability to write clearly, think sharply, research deeply, and communicate insights in a rigorous interdisciplinary academic environment. His dedication and initiative will serve him very well in any graduate program. His specific interests in tribal rights, environmental policy, sustainable agriculture, and horticulture make him an ideal candidate for Evergreen's MES. He is a strong student and is sure to succeed.

In sum, I enthusiastically recommend Orion for admission to the MES program at Evergreen. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about his candidacy or if any further information would be useful.

Very sincerely,

Bradley Proctor, PhD
Member of the Faculty (Associate Professor), U.S. History
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