Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202610_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	david craig	Recommenders Title:	professor
Recommenders Institution:	willamette university	Contact Name:	Dominic Renberger
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✖	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	12/29/2024 08:30 PM	Recommender Assessment:	
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121398675	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 rigourous 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:	12/09/2024 01:23 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	12/30/2024 09:03 AM	Modified By:	Shalimar Pedersen

DAVID P. CRAIG, PH.D.
PROFESSOR OF BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
OFFICE 503-370-6333
MOBILE 503-949-7659
DPCRAIG@WILLAMETTE.EDU

To Evergreen Green State College Admissions,

I am delighted to write this recommendation for my former student, Dominic Renberge, who is interested in joining the Masters of Environmental Science Program at Evergreen Green State College. Dominic will be an excellent fit with your program and is ready to advance his professional training.

As you may know, Willamette University is a small, elite, nationally ranked liberal arts college with a long tradition of training exceptional leaders and attracting talent like Dominic. Dominic first came to my attention four years ago when he was a freshman (2021) in the BIOL 225 Biodiversity and Climate Change I was teaching. I was also his professor for independent research and advanced research writing credits in behavioral ecology (2022-2023). In his graduating semester in the Spring of 2024, he was my top teaching assistant in BIOL 225. Dom's fast learning and intellectual curiosity were most apparent in labs when hands-on activities included scientific measurements, species identification, and designing experiments. I was especially impressed with Dom's skill in using a DJI Mavic 3 aerial drone to measure the canopies of old complex Oregon white oaks and the flight paths of Canada Geese.

Dom is a keen-eyed naturalist with the demeanor for a career in environmental work from dawn to dusk. In my BIOL 225 course, Dominic developed a passion for organismal biology and environmental science that has led him to dedicate his post-baccalaureate development toward his current goal of a master's degree. As the lead TA in BIOL 225, he was responsible for training a class of 70 students (a mix of science and non-science majors) on how to identify the 400 most common birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods, trees, shrubs, and flowers in the Pacific Northwest. He is an enthusiastic educator and has been specifically pushing his training to qualify him for a professional career. He is exceptionally dependable and cheery in the early morning hours and I believe he is especially talented at reaching audiences from diverse backgrounds especially people of color like himself. In fact, Dom's first paid job following graduation was acting as the lead guide for a 2-hour nature walk for the NW5C Faculty of Color Retreat. On that walk, Dom also mentored an assistant guide, Hattie Mercier '2,7, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde - the local Indigenous people of the area occupied by Willamette University.

Dominic enjoys a measurable outcome. I am a very challenging instructor regarding scientific writing. When Dominic did not get the marks he wanted, I learned how dedicated and responsible he could be for his performance. He buckled down and invested the time necessary to punch his writing skills up to a new level. These attributes of dedication, responsibility, and capacity to learn quickly should serve him well later on when He goes to do graduate coursework.

I find Dominic very likable, which is essential to being a good research team member. He is very generous with his peers and keenly interested in people and their actions. It is not hard to imagine Dominic's effortless conversational style making his collaborators more effective during the research activity. Based on various oral presentations, Dominic will be good at explaining what He is doing to the supervisor. He is enthusiastic about the mechanisms of scientific procedures that would likely enrich his interactions with the people He is helping.   I know he is reliable at recording data and making good field notes.

Dominic has a good idea about what being a researcher entails based on his coursework at Willamette University. I know he looks forward to researching wildlife and their habitats. Dom is one of my favorite people, and I would love to see him join Evergreen. Although his lived experiences are different from Hannah (Tragesar) Whidden'13, I am reminded of how Hannah's talents flourished in the distinctive culture of Evergreen following her experience as an undergraduate at Willamette. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

David P. Craig, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology