
Application Related Information

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

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	David Gillette	Recommenders Title:	Professor
Recommenders Institution:	University of North Carolina at Asheville	Contact Name:	Abigail Ruegg
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	03/09/2025 07:14 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121879426	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:	03/02/2025 08:50 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	03/09/2025 07:14 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

Selection Committee
Master of Environmental Studies Program
Evergreen State College
Olympia, WA 98505

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9 March 2025

To the Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation in support of Abigail (Rose) Ruegg's application to the Master of Environmental Studies Program at the Evergreen State College. I have known Rose since August 2021, and she was a student in my Seminar on Environmental Issues course (our senior capstone experience). Based on my interactions with Rose in this context, I place her in the top 15% of students with whom I have interacted during my time at UNC Asheville (UNCA) with regard to potential for graduate school success.

Rose has many great strengths, but those that stick out to me most are her scientific communication skills and her positive energy and engagement. Rose gave a wonderful presentation in my Seminar on Environmental Issues course – the research was well-done, the presentation design very professional, and her presentation style interesting and engaging. It was a presentation that any graduate student would have been proud of! In addition, her grant proposal, on the topic of retrofitting golf carts with solar panels and wiring to function as mobile microgrids, was creative and comprehensive. Rose really has a gift for developing an idea and communicating it well, whether in oral or written form. I believe her minor in Mass Communication played a role in helping her develop this skill. Rose brings a high level of energy to every activity she engages in, and this really helps to bring out the best in her collaborators. I observed this first-hand during group work in my Seminar course. Rose and her team arranged for several out-of-class meetings with potential campus collaborators, and the importance of her energy and engagement in pushing this work through was apparent. She is a very positive member of working groups. As we know, science is increasingly a collaborative undertaking, and I believe Rose is positioned well to be a great collaborator.

Beginning during her time at UNCA, Rose has worked hard to gain the experiences necessary to become a top-notch environmental scientist. She participated in several undergraduate research experiences, culminating in her involvement with the Insect Abundance Network, which resulted in a publication, along with an extensive list of co-authors, in the prestigious journal *Ecology* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.4036>). Since graduation, Rose has gained additional experience with the Thurston Conservation District and the Nisqually Reach Nature Center, and, after speaking with her recently, it is clear to me that she is now ready for graduate school success. She believes, and I concur, that the program at Evergreen State is a good fit for her, with many programmatic and cultural similarities to what she experienced at a public liberal arts university like UNCA.

In summary, I highly recommend Rose Ruegg for admission to the Master of Environmental Studies Program at the Evergreen State College. She is a bright young scientist with a lot of potential! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Dr. David P. Gillette, Professor & Chair