

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By:  
Irene Rossell

Recommenders Title: Professor of Environmental  
Science

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 06:13 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant  
without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121879411

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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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

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Description:

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

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 03/02/2025 08:50 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 03/09/2025 06:13 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

9 March 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Rose Ruegg, who is applying to Evergreen State College for admission to the Master's in Environmental Studies Program. I have known Rose for four years. She took two of my courses at the University of North Carolina Asheville (Plant Ecology and Plant-Animal Interactions), and did well in both courses. Rose demonstrated a natural aptitude for scientific inquiry in my Plant Ecology course, in which students conduct independent field projects, choose their own research questions, plan their field work, collect and analyze data, and present their results to the class. She chose to investigate chlorophyll levels in fertile vs. infertile ramets of clubmoss, which is a clonal forest understory herb. Rose was very dedicated to her project. She spent more time in the field than most of her peers, and ended up with quite an impressive sample size. Her project was well-executed, and her data analysis and oral presentation were engaging and well-received by her classmates.

During her senior year, Rose undertook an undergraduate research project identifying flying insects for another Environmental Science professor. She worked really hard on this project – the work was tedious, and I can attest she spent many hours in the lab with the samples. Her hard work paid off, as she was included on a multi-authored paper on insect phenology that was published in the journal *Ecology*. This is a good example of Rose's diligence and passion for ecology, and her determination to excel as a scientist. One of my best memories of Rose is from a lab activity in my Plant Ecology course, in which the class helped construct a series of floating wetlands to improve water quality in one of our campus ponds. The local television station filmed our work and selected Rose to interview. She spoke so articulately and passionately about the role of scientists in environmental work, that the class video clip was a great success. Clearly, one of Rose's strengths is her ability to communicate with and inspire others about scientific topics.

I am confident Rose will make a top-notch graduate student in your program. She is mature, responsible, has a strong work ethic, and works well independently and collaboratively. I give her my highest recommendation for admission to your graduate program and for any financial assistance you can give her.

Sincerely,

Irene M. Rossell  
Professor of Environmental Science  
Interdisciplinary Professor of the Mountain South  
University of North Carolina at Asheville  
Asheville, NC 28804