

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Carol Dickson	Recommenders Title:	Associate Dean of Academics and Advising
Recommenders Institution:	Sterling College	Contact Name:	Anushka Saraswat
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:	01/09/2025 08:47 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121485308	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:	12/23/2024 08:57 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	01/09/2025 08:47 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



9 January 2025

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

It is my pleasure to write in support of Anushka Saraswat's application for the Masters in Environmental Studies program. I worked closely with Anushka in a number of capacities while she was a student at Sterling College: she was my student in courses that included *Nature Writing*, *Oral History*, and *Race & Gender in Images of the American West*; I was her supervisor for the semester she worked as a Learning Center peer mentor; and we served together on the search committee for the new Library Director. Anushka is a bright, passionate, and extraordinarily capable student. She might seem quiet and reserved at first, but she is listening carefully, observing keenly, and thinking deeply. I am confident that she will thrive in this program and be a tremendous asset to the Evergreen community.

Anushka thinks powerfully in transdisciplinary ways. At Sterling, she used study in the Environmental Humanities very effectively to examine and illuminate social and environmental issues. For example, her final project in *Oral History* centered on an extended interview with our Fiber Arts instructor, focusing on intersections among fiber arts, environmental impacts, and global political and economic systems. This points also to the effectiveness with which she grounds her inquiry in cross-cultural perspectives. Her final piece for *Nature Writing*, for example, described the social and ecological milieu of Dakar in vivid detail as she considered meanings of home, and her final project for *Race & Gender in Images of the American West* considered impacts of western film ideology in India through an analysis of the Bollywood classic *Sholay*.

Anushka also *acts* powerfully in transdisciplinary ways, actively seeking ways to apply her thinking in the world, through, in her words, "hopeful inquiry." She was a leader in Roots, the campus affinity group for students of color, and her Senior Applied Research Project (SYRP), "The Causes and Aftermath of Global Immigration with a Focus on Vermont," analyzed the dynamics of immigration through actual impacts on Vermont residents and communities. She strongly embodies her "commitment to investigating how environmental issues disproportionately affect marginalized groups in societies across the globe," through her studies and in her current work, as her statement of purpose makes clear.

Finally, Anushka is a student with the confidence and vision to take initiative in developing her own educational path, from designing her own major in Environmental Justice, to reaching out to members of the broader community to interview for her SYRP, to developing online opportunities for her peers to access learning support during the COVID pandemic. This ability to create and take advantage of opportunities will serve her well in her graduate study.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol E. Dickson
Faculty in Environmental Humanities
Associate Dean of Academics and Advising
cdickson@sterlingcollege.edu