

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202540_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Aaron Goings
Recommenders Institution: Peninsula College (formerly
Saint Martin's University)

Recommenders Title: Dr. (PHD)
Contact Name: Paladin Palmerton

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: 04/04/2025 01:41 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant
without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121739343

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: 01/29/2025 02:36 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 04/04/2025 01:41 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

April 2, 2025

To Members of the Evergreen State College Masters in Teaching Program Committee:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Paladin Palmerton's application for your graduate teaching program. I believe that Paladin is a strong applicant based on his academic excellence, his commitment to the public good, and the quality of his character. My knowledge of Paladin's qualifications comes mostly from classes that he took with me and from my time serving as his main academic advisor. What's more, I've had several conversations with Mr. Palmerton about his career objectives, his experiences, and his strong commitments to lifelong learning.

By way of introduction, I was a professor at Saint Martin's University (SMU) from 2009-2024. Near the end of that period, I had the good fortune of having Paladin in several of my history classes—and to work with him on his excellent senior thesis—which earned a high “A” grade. Based on my work with earlier students and my experience in seeing students advance through teaching graduate work, I strongly encouraged Mr. Palmerton to apply for programs such as yours. He is sharp, hard-working, friendly, and thrives in situations where he works with people from diverse backgrounds—including those with whom he disagrees. I've had Mr. Palmerton in several classes. Even when he disagrees with other students' perspectives, he presents his own points in a way that doesn't disparage others' views. Furthermore, I've been impressed with how, during discussions, Paladin uses evidence (usually from the texts we're reading rather than hearsay) to make his points clearly and concisely. Mr. Palmerton demonstrates his compassion for others and his willingness to help students who are less prepared than himself. For all these reasons and many more, he is precisely the kind of person who I enjoy having in class.

Paladin comes to class prepared and has always done the assigned reading. Strongly motivated, he organizes his work well and is always prepared in advance. Mr. Palmerton's level of conceptualization, his writing and research skills and his ability to perform under pressure in class are all meritorious. One of Mr. Palmerton's strongest areas, however, is in oral presentations. He delivered several strong presentations in my classes. Certainly, he's articulate, but more importantly Paladin prepares ahead of time so that he is deeply knowledgeable on the topics he's discussing. I remember one presentation, in particular, where Paladin presented his senior thesis work in front of a large crowd of professors and graduating seniors from diverse academic fields. By the time of his presentation, I know full well that it would be my last day teaching at Saint Martin's and Paladin absolutely wowed me with his knowledge, his style of delivery, and the way he dealt with a variety of questions from the audience. In short, his work that day—along with many other times where I worked with Paladin—made it difficult to leave SMU.

As his transcript will attest, Paladin is a strong student who has long maintained an outstanding grade point average while holding down jobs and doing several extracurricular activities. He clearly has a good work ethic and has had an exceptional career at Saint Martin's University. Since I served as an advisor to Mr. Palmerton, at least two of his other professors reached out to me to praise his good work. I can say with all honesty that those professors were correct—and it's been my pleasure to work with Mr. Palmerton these past few years. I have noticed that Paladin

attends history-themed and other public educational events in Thurston County, and Mr. Palmerton has an impressive thirst for knowledge and public engagement.

Personally, Paladin is very mature, cooperative and responsible. He gracefully balances the needs of his family and work-life with his strong commitment to his education—and to the public good. Future generations of Washington State public school students deserve dedicated professionals like Paladin, and I'm confident that he will make a good addition to your program—and to the world of teachers in the future. I have great respect for Mr. Palmerton's diligence and accomplishments and respectfully encourage you to look favorably upon his application.

Mr. Palmerton was my last history student who graduated from SMU—and in closing this letter, I want to say that he's also one of the most memorable students I've had in many years of teaching in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Paladin was (and remains) one of the real bright spots of the SMU campus and wider Olympia-area community, and if you accept Mr. Palmerton into your program, I can guarantee you won't be disappointed. Paladin is one of the brightest, most compassionate students I've come across—and I am confident he will be a great fit for your program.

Please contact me via email at aaronagoings@gmail.com or phone at (253) 753-5375 if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Aaron Goings, Ph.D.
Professor of History
Peninsula College