

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Abir Biswas
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Academic Dean

Contact Name: Andrew Buechel

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: 01/31/2023 03:30 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108933726

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

Since 2013

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Andrew was an outstanding student of mine at Evergreen. He is an excellent self-directed learner.

Time since last contact with applicant: We spoke <2 weeks ago.

Applicant as productive member of group: Outstanding.

Relationship with Applicant:

I was his faculty member.

Applicant most significant strengths: Andrew is very hard working, with terrific initiative and accountability. He was an excellent research student of mine and believe he would be terrific in the MPA program!

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Outstanding

Responsibility/reliability: Outstanding

Communication Skills - Oral: Outstanding

Communication skills - written: Outstanding

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Outstanding

Ability to work independently: Outstanding

Ability to handle stress: Outstanding

Ability to think critically: Outstanding

Ability to analyze/problem solve: Outstanding

Ability to think creatively: Outstanding

Openness to feedback: Outstanding

Potential for leadership: Outstanding

Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Personal/professional reflection: Outstanding

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 01/15/2023 04:52 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 01/31/2023 03:30 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



January 25, 2023

The Evergreen State College
Masters in Public Administration Program
Olympia WA, 98505

Dear Evergreen MPA Program,

I am writing to very strongly recommend Andrew Buechel's application to the MPA program at The Evergreen State College. I know Andrew very well as he was an outstanding student of mine here at Evergreen during multiple programs from 2013-2016 wherein he consistently demonstrated an excellent work ethic and an outstanding understanding of the course material. Andrew was an increasingly strong student during the *Earth Matters* program in 2013-14, and was an excellent student and undergraduate researcher both in *Environmental Analysis* (2014-15; taught with a chemist and an ecologist), in *Biogeochemistry* (2016; taught with a biochemist), and during a self-directed undergraduate research project. Since his graduation from Evergreen, Andrew has been employed in the region, and his interests have shifted toward policy and public administration. At this point, based on Andrew's career plans and trajectory, I believe that Evergreen's MPA program is very well aligned with his skills and a terrific next step for him. Fundamentally, Andrew is a terrific student who is ready for graduate school-- and I firmly believe that he is very motivated and well-prepared to excel in Evergreen's MPA program.

Andrew excelled in all of my programs and most notably in my upper division programs *Environmental Analysis* and *Biogeochemistry*, both of which were very intensive and rigorous. *Environmental Analysis* was a year-long program that included a capstone research component—and Andrew turned that positive experience into an excellent research project and a conference presentation. Andrew was an exceptionally well-engaged and well-prepared student throughout all aspects of all of my programs and he was able to do this in spite of a very time-consuming off-campus job (20-30 hrs/week I believe during his time at Evergreen). He was a dedicated and enthusiastic student, displaying an excellent understanding of the upper division material that we covered in aqueous geochemistry and biogeochemistry, and consistently displaying terrific teamwork and leadership skills. Andrew took important leadership roles in group research projects and his teammates commented on the high quality of his work as well as his attention to detail. Andrew is a very strong writer and each quarter he played an integral role in helping his group produce a major research paper/presentation. His groups consistently produced excellent work, and evaluations by his fellow students indicated that he was doing more than his share and that he was a strong contributor to all facets of group projects.



Andrew took excellent advantage of opportunities to conduct research during his time at Evergreen. Andrew displayed excellent initiative in the lab during an undergraduate research project and as an excellent SURF (summer undergraduate research fellow) student in my lab during summer 2015. To be honest, based on his consistently excellent work, he would have been prepared to contribute to research at the graduate level if it aligned with his long-term interests. I strongly believe that Andrew developed transferable skills in research and writing, which in addition to his current policy-related work, have prepared him to excel in Evergreen's MPA program.

I believe that Andrew is a terrific candidate for the MPA program, not just because of the knowledge and skills he developed at Evergreen, but also because his current work related to policy (particularly with respect to non-profit) and public administration. In addition to being a consistently excellent student, Andrew collaborated exceptionally well with classmates— and these skills led me to ask him to mentor another research student. Unsurprisingly, Andrew did a terrific job, given his preparation and the seriousness with which he approaches his academic pursuits. Importantly, Andrew has demonstrated academic interests broader than the science-focus of my programs in the years since graduation based on his advancement, and it is clear the MPA program will help him develop skills to progress in his career!

I believe that Andrew is very excited about the opportunity to join the MPA program, and down the road to be involved in addressing issues of inequity in Washington state. I honestly believe that Andrew is exceptionally well-prepared to succeed in the MPA program at Evergreen and I very enthusiastically support his application. Please feel free to contact me for any additional details that you would require to better evaluate his application.

Sincerely,
Abir Biswas

Abir Biswas, Ph.D.
Academic Dean & Member of the Faculty
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