

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Steve Niva
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Steve Niva, Ph.D

Contact Name: Brett Farache

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 04/05/2023 02:29 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109412042

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant: One year

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: He demonstrated more than sufficient capability.

Time since last contact with applicant: Two weeks

Applicant as productive member of group: He has excellent teamwork abilities.

Relationship with Applicant: Faculty

Applicant most significant strengths: Receptive to feedback and then raising his level of performance.

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Excellent

Responsibility/reliability: Excellent

Communication Skills - Oral: Above Average

Communication skills - written: Very Good

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Excellent

Ability to work independently: Excellent

Ability to handle stress: Excellent

Ability to think critically: Very Good

Ability to analyze/problem solve: Excellent

Ability to think creatively: Very Good

Openness to feedback: Outstanding

Potential for leadership: Excellent

Ability to work in a team: Excellent

Personal/professional reflection: Excellent

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 03/22/2023 08:07 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 04/05/2023 02:29 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Dr. Steve Niva, Member of the Faculty
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505
(360) 867-5612 ♦ nivas@evergreen.edu



I am writing with strong support for Brett “Aubrey” Farache’s application to the MPA program at Evergreen. Aubrey was a very good student in a two quarter long immersive program of study about contemporary global politics that I taught in 2022-23 at The Evergreen State College. Aubrey’s quality work and academic improvement over the two quarter’s in a challenging upper division global politics and policy program lead me to believe he has the potential to succeed as a student in an MPA program. I believe he has very strong motivation to succeed in his longer term goals to work in the VA system or in public policy.

Aubrey was a serious and intellectually engaged student in my program about global migration and borders in the age of climate change. Although someone with extensive life experiences in the military and older than many students in the program, Aubrey was newly back in school after some time away. He needed to get back into the swing of writing, thinking and reading, and we were reading some very challenging texts and writing serious thesis-driven papers. But he was very receptive to feedback and really put in the work and before too long he was reading, writing and participating at a high level. In particular, he developed much stronger writing skills and put good effort into constructing college-level thesis-driven essays that used academic sources. He also showed a good ability to make in-class presentations about complex topics and was able to take the lead in group projects. Aubrey demonstrated very good work habits and was someone who can get their academic work accomplished on time and with substance. By the second quarter, I would rate Aubrey in the top 10 per cent of the students in this course.

For example, Aubrey showed a strong ability to understand the international refugee system that was created in 1951 and analyze and debate policy reforms about this system. He worked with a team to understand the root causes of the refugee crisis in Venezuela that has resulted in mass population displacement and wrote a clear paper addressing this issue. Aubrey showed fine learning in his policy paper on how to reform the global refugee regime where he emphasized the need for new policies around refugee resettlement and safe passage. He then critically examined the “border crisis” narrative that shapes policy debates in the United States about migrants and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border and wrote a short but clear paper arguing that the situation was better understood as a crisis of mass displacement. Finally, Aubrey showed a good ability to think about how climate change will produce a major crisis of

displacement over the next century and gave a good presentation about how the climate migration will need to consider new sites of resettlement in the far north.

Aubrey is a person of integrity and thoughtfulness. He also works well with others who have a wide variety of views and is a good participant in team exercises. I also think that his life experiences outside of school have prepared him for a high level of discipline and focus. As a result, I believe Aubrey would be a great addition to any school. Please contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Steve Niva
Professor, International Studies
The Evergreen State College