

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Mark Pendas
Recommenders Institution: University of Washington-Tacoma
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Associate Professor

Contact Name: Modou Nyang

Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 06/12/2023 05:36 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109811160

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

2 years

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Mr. Nyang is exceptionally self-directed and self-motivated. He is a highly capable student.

Time since last contact with applicant:

Four weeks

Applicant as productive member of group: Mr. Nyang is an excellent group member, contributing much to group productivity and community building.

Relationship with Applicant:

He was a student of mine.

Applicant most significant strengths: Mr. Nyang is a thoughtful learner and a critical thinker who is deeply committed to social justice and positive social change.

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Outstanding

Responsibility/reliability: Outstanding

Communication Skills - Oral: Excellent

Communication skills - written: Excellent

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Outstanding

Ability to work independently: Outstanding

Ability to handle stress: Excellent

Ability to think critically: Outstanding

Ability to analyze/problem solve: Excellent

Ability to think creatively: Outstanding

Openness to feedback: Excellent

Potential for leadership: Outstanding

Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Personal/professional reflection: Outstanding

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 05/12/2023 11:35 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 06/12/2023 05:36 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Dr. Mark Pendras
Associate Professor
School of Urban Studies
University of Washington, Tacoma
1900 Commerce Street
Tacoma, WA 98402

June 12, 2023

Dear Admissions Review Committee,

I write to recommend that you accept Mr. Modou Nyang into your graduate program. I have known Mr. Nyang for approximately two years as a student in my classes in the Masters of Community Planning program in the School of Urban Studies at the University of Washington Tacoma. Mr. Nyang has made a positive impression on me in that relatively short span of time. I can say with confidence that Mr. Nyang is a thoughtful, mature, intellectually curious, and confident student and it has been my pleasure to work with him.

It is hard for me to believe that I have had Mr. Nyang in only one class, as the experience made a significant impact. Mr. Nyang is a critical thinker ready and willing to ask challenging questions that help make sense of and apply the lessons learned in class. He is not one to simply accept materials as they are offered; he takes learning very seriously and he is constantly searching for ways to connect class materials with his own experiences. This is not to suggest that Mr. Nyang is in any way antagonistic. Quite the contrary, in fact, as he is warm and personable and generous and willing to put in the work needed to build community amongst his peers. And his work output has been excellent, punctuated by high quality work and a hunger and willingness to improve.

The class the Mr. Nyang took with me is called *Legal Urbanism*, and in that class we explore ways that law shapes decision making in cities, setting parameters of authority and shaping conditions and possibilities. As I recall, Mr. Nyang was both deeply engaged and deeply frustrated by the class, as the somewhat intractable context of law presented barriers to meaningful change. He has communicated to me that this is a motivation for pursuing an MPA degree, with an emphasis on policy: he wants to understand the structures that shape lived experiences and to find ways to change them and to improve people's lives. He is committed to social justice and has a long and admirable record of work in the broad field of social service provision, spanning homeless services, educational outreach, youth programming, housing research, and international development. I would expect this wealth of experience will contribute significantly to your school and degree program.

I was frankly surprised to hear from Mr. Nyang that he wanted to pursue another graduate degree on the heels of finishing his MA in Community Planning at UW Tacoma. When I asked him about this Mr. Nyang explained to me, convincingly, that he wants to continue growing and pushing in the direction of public policy and administration, taking the lessons he has learned at UW Tacoma and building on them in meaningful ways.

Mr. Nyang is an exceptional person. He believes the program at Evergreen is a good match for his interests and I expect that if you accept him he will bring much to your program. I strongly recommend that you accept him and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about his qualifications.

Sincerely,
JM Pendras
Dr. Mark Pendras