

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Not Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MPA

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Rachel Hastings  
Recommenders Institution: TESC  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Professor  
Contact Name: Alison Smith  
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 05/10/2021 07:35 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000089426718

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.  
Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form  
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:	Winter 2021	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	Alison's strength as a self-directed learner is the passion and commitment to social justice that she brings to her studies--she shows tenacity in following up on ideas; this could also make it a bit harder for her to settle on a focus area.
Time since last contact with applicant:	a few weeks	Applicant as productive member of group:	Alison works very well with a wide range of students, and is encouraging to others in the context of group work.
Relationship with Applicant:	faculty in Evergreen program	Applicant most significant strengths:	Alison is a creative thinker and a strong and creative writer. She contributes her ideas well in group contexts, and offers great support for others' work.
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Unable to Judge	Responsibility/reliability:	Very Good
Communication Skills - Oral:	Excellent	Communication skills - written:	Very Good
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Excellent	Ability to work independently:	Very Good
Ability to handle stress:	Unable to Judge	Ability to think critically:	Very Good

Ability to analyze/problem solve: Unable to Judge

Ability to think creatively: Excellent

Openness to feedback: Excellent

Potential for leadership: Very Good

Ability to work in a team: Excellent

Personal/professional reflection: Very Good

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#### Description Information

Description:

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

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#### Other Information

Created Time: 05/04/2021 12:22 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 04/17/2023 10:33 AM

Modified By: Shalimar Pedersen



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The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Pkwy. NW  
Olympia, WA 98505  
May 10, 2021

Dear MPA Admissions Committee:

I am writing in support of Alison Smith, who is an applicant to the MPA program at Evergreen. Alison was my student in Winter 2021 in a program on linguistics and quantitative reasoning in the context of climate change. This remote-only program took place in the stressful context of a pandemic, and Alison persevered with the work despite the challenges. She stood out as a creative writer and thinker, an innovative communicator, and an active participant who was always encouraging and supportive of other students. These qualities mesh well with attributes you highlight for MPA students, including writing skills, interpersonal skills, and persistence.

Alison enrolled in my 12-credit class *Communicating Climate Change: Language and Data* during the final quarter of her undergraduate studies. She brought a range of academic experience in the humanities, social sciences, and business. She was an important contributor to our class—especially so in the difficult online context. We had several students who were new to Evergreen and others who found it very difficult to engage in the Zoom environment. Alison provided leadership in the classroom through her participation, her evident engagement with the ideas and concepts that we were covering, and her ability to highlight the strengths she saw in others. These skills really enhanced the work of our learning community considerably. Alison's responses to our texts (which crossed a very wide variety of genres) demonstrated strong comprehension and also a creative flare for communicating ideas about the material in unexpected ways. For example, Alison's essays and homework responses sometimes employed a creative non-fiction approach to the analysis of ideas about language and data. The essays helped their audience look at climate change and other environmental and social justice issues in new ways. A couple of growth areas include timeliness of assignments, and more practice with topic focus. I'll add that the pandemic context of Winter 2021 was a super challenging time—I know I missed out on seeing some of Alison's best work as a result of this context, so I encourage you to look over her whole academic record to get a fuller picture. One other particular strength I noticed was keeping in touch about challenges, and tenacity to complete as much of the work as possible.

Alison contributed a lot to my class and I enjoyed working with her. She has a lot to offer through her passion for learning and her commitment to making positive change, and these are some of the skills and motivations she would bring to the MPA program. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about Alison's candidacy.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Hastings, Ph.D. (TESC faculty, linguistics)  
[hastingsr@evergreen.edu](mailto:hastingsr@evergreen.edu)