

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MPA

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: John Caraher  
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Dean of Faculty

Contact Name: Finian Ghalleger

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

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

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 02/09/2024 07:48 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000117577465

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant: one year

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Excellent

Time since last contact with applicant:

Applicant as productive member of group: Excellent - he is both an excellent listener and goes above and beyond in working cooperatively to solve problems

3 days

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths: Deeo understanding of systems and a person-focused orientation. Empathetic, intelligent, creative, and diligent.

co-worker in deans' area

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Very Good

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: Unable to Judge

Openness to feedback: Outstanding

Potential for leadership: Very Good

Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Personal/professional reflection: Outstanding

#### Description Information

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Description:

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

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 02/01/2024 11:23 PM

Modified Time: 02/09/2024 07:48 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



2009 Evans Hall  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW  
Olympia, WA 98505  
February 5, 2024

To the Evergreen MPA Admissions Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Finian Gallegher for graduate study in the MPA program. I've known Finian for about a year as a staff colleague in the deans' area at Evergreen, where he staffs the front desk.

I am not Finian's direct supervisor but work with him closely and often observe his interactions with students, parents, and anyone else who arrives in the deans' area with a question, concern, or by chance. One area where we do work closely is in sending communications to the campus community. I share my drafts with him and Finian proofreads, checks hyperlinks, and sends the messages to the appropriate distribution lists. In doing this work, he is alert to new possibilities and takes initiative to suggest alternatives (for instance, in a recent publicity message for faculty readings on campus he realized some other ways to spread the word that were not part of my original plan, and with my enthusiastic permission implements those). He also has done a significant amount of troubleshooting and assistance in support of my work above and beyond the requirements of the job. For example, I was out of the office when a phone interview for a faculty search ran into technical difficulty. Working with another staff member, Finian helped diagnose the problem and set up the committee to work from my office instead, and made arrangements for the next round of phone interviews pending resolution of the original technical problem. Finian is devoted to serving the students and faculty of Evergreen and the overall success of the institution.

Finian has been a self-described professional student with wide ranging interests that have notably included a passion for mathematics and an interest in creative writing. Finian's curiosity, intelligence, and work ethic will make him an excellent scholar in just about any field.

In the context of MPA, Finian has shown a strong understanding of Evergreen as an institution and the systems that make it run. Often when students arrive at the front desk it is unclear precisely which offices and people need to help them, particularly when their problem cuts across divisions. Finian is an active listener and creative problem solver. While we do have a desk manual intended to help the front desk staff direct people to the right offices and staff to address their needs, Finian goes well beyond the flowchart and works with the nuance of each situation. He draws on both personal connections, developed over many years as a student and student worker, and an understanding of systems to develop creative and effective action plans for those he helps.

In short, Finian will be an energetic, serious graduate student. He is intellectually capable, industrious, self-motivated, and works very well independently.

Sincerely,

John M. Caraher  
Dean of Faculty and  
Member of the Faculty  
Physics & Mathematics

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