

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Complete  
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

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

#### Recommendation Information

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

Recommenders Title: Member of the Faculty

Contact Name: Vanndon Maxwell-Miller

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: 04/03/2024 12:25 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000118121327

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Through his completion of 4 credits of an Independent Learning Contract with me, I can say that Van is highly capable of self-directing learning.

~2 years

Time since last contact with applicant:

Applicant as productive member of group: I did not directly teach Van in courses with a group project component, however based on my experience with him I believe he can be a productive member of a group in graduate programs.

less than a week

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths: Van is a highly capable writer of technical and research papers. He also very good at oral presentations. His independent learning of Python and resulting scripting and developing ArcGIS processes/products was at a very high level.

Faculty

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Excellent

Responsibility/reliability: Excellent

Communication Skills - Oral: Excellent

Communication skills - written: Excellent

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Very Good

Ability to work independently: Outstanding

Ability to handle stress: Excellent

Ability to think critically: Very Good

Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Excellent	Ability to think creatively:	Unable to Judge
Openness to feedback:	Very Good	Potential for leadership:	Very Good
Ability to work in a team:	Excellent	Personal/professional reflection:	Very Good

Description Information

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Description:	Form URL:	<a href="https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu">https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu</a>
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Other Information

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Created Time:	03/26/2024 04:24 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	04/04/2024 11:20 PM	Modified By:	Shalimar Pedersen



April 3, 2024

Master of Public Administration Program  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505

To the Evergreen MPA Admissions Committee,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Van Maxwell-Miller's application to the MPA Program at Evergreen. Van started the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program in the fall of 2022, and I first taught him in the required MES course *Ecological and Social Sustainability* in Winter 2023, as well as advising him on 4 credits of independent study in 2023-24. Van is on track to graduate with an MES degree in June 2024.

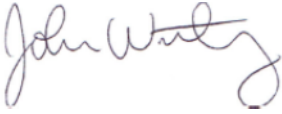
Van has completed his graduate coursework at a very high level of achievement, and he has demonstrated excellent research skills. As faculty in Ecological and Social Sustainability I evaluated his research paper on "Neoliberalism Through the Debtor-Creditor Relationship: The Impacts of Debt Under a Climate Justice Lens," submitted as part of a 'MES candidacy' portfolio required to continue in our program. The components of the paper I found the most compelling were those directly related to answering his question on how global north countries can assist global south countries through technology transfers that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining their "right to develop." Van's paper followed a clear organization and integrated information from multiple cited sources, including literature from peer-reviewed journals and academic books to online reports by agencies including the UN and World Economic Forum. Van's presentation on this topic made good use of images and text in his slides, and he answered audience questions adeptly.

The independent study (ILC) Van completed with me in the past two quarters was on Python scripting in ArcGIS Pro. Van made use of the ESRI Press book "Python Scripting for ArcGIS Pro" in addition to online ESRI courses to start, before delving into more intricate Python scripting techniques and advanced functionalities. Through this ILC Van demonstrated abilities including writing specialized scripts using ArcPy, developing Python toolboxes, sharing scripts and tools, managing Python packages and environments, migrating scripts and tools to ArcGIS Pro, and utilizing advanced Python libraries such as NumPy, Pandas, and Matplotlib for data manipulation and visualization. His work also illustrated Van's commitment to continuous learning and professional development in the field of geospatial analysis and GIS applications.

I hope you agree that Van is a strong candidate for continuing his graduate studies as a MPA student, as he has demonstrated the range of academic skills and abilities necessary for success. He has also demonstrated the communication and personal skills (in peer review groups, working on group projects for classes, and in 1-on-1 meetings with me as faculty) that will serve him and your program well.

I recommend him strongly and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "John Withey". The signature is cursive and fluid, with the first and last names clearly legible.

John Withey, Ph.D.  
Member of the Faculty  
Master of Environmental Studies Program  
The Evergreen State College