

Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation, University of Kentucky Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of an applicant to our graduate program. Our graduate committee strives to: (1) evaluate students using a holistic, equity-based approach, (2) provide the opportunity for a systematic, unbiased review of all applicants, and most importantly, (3) identify strong matches between our program and interested students. A frank appraisal, by a person who knows the applicant well, is one of our best sources of information.

Please address the following points in your letter.

1. How long, how well, and in what way have you known the applicant?
2. How would you rank the applicant's earth and environmental science knowledge and training (field and laboratory skills) in comparison with other students you have taught?
3. Does the applicant have the motivation needed to complete a graduate degree?
4. Is the applicant mature, professional, and respectful of the workplace?
5. How well-developed are the applicant's writing and oral communication skills?
6. How well does the applicant get along with peers and with faculty?
7. Is the applicant resilient in the face of adversity?

Overall, we would like to get a sense of the applicant's "trajectory"-- how they have developed and matured, and how the applicant's interests and aspirations have evolved over time. We realize that writing these letters is a time-consuming task. Thank you for assistance in this process!

If possible, please upload your letter directly to our online application system. If you are unable to do this, please send your letter to:

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