

Recommendation Letter Guidelines

Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education Program

Thank you for agreeing to provide a letter of recommendation for this applicant to the Sonoma State University **MA in Early Childhood Education** program! We appreciate your support.

Please provide us with your **honest and comprehensive assessment of this applicant's ability to participate effectively and succeed in *graduate* study.**

If you have any questions about providing a letter of recommendation, please contact Dr. Ayumi Nagase at nagasea@sonoma.edu.

Please be sure that your recommendation letter provides your detailed and authentic assessment of the applicant based on the following four prompts:

1. Describe your position, the capacity in which you know the applicant, and how long you have known the applicant.

2. Evaluate the applicant's intellectual and academic capacity for **graduate** study and provide evidence based on your knowledge about the applicant. Examples include the following dispositions and skills:

- Intelligence
- Creativity
- Willingness and capacity for engaging with advanced academic learning materials
- Ability to grasp and communicate advanced concepts
- Critical Thinking
- Effective verbal and written communication
- Curiosity
- Love of learning
- Persistence

3. Evaluate the applicant's leadership capacity and provide evidence based on your knowledge about the applicant. Examples include the following dispositions and skills:

- Ethical judgment and integrity
- Initiative and ability to prioritize academic and professional work
- Ability to manage ambiguity and challenges
- Ability to collaborate effectively and respectfully with others
- Time management and organization

4. Evaluate the applicant as a potential graduate and early childhood professional and provide evidence based on your knowledge about the applicant. Examples include the following dispositions and skills:

- Commitment to providing equity and opportunity for young children and families
- Respect and compassion for all people
- Coping skills
- Resilience, self-regulation, and self-motivation
- Professional judgment and integrity
- Passion and affinity for working with young children and families from diverse backgrounds

Thank you for your support of our graduate program application process.