

March 28th, 2014

It is my privilege to be writing this recommendation letter on behalf of Dr. John Homer. I have interacted with him extensively as my Programming I course instructor. Through this course I came to know him very well and therefore can comment on various aspects of his teaching. The method through which Dr. Homer structures his course, combined with his unparalleled teaching skills and his care for students (beyond what is expected of a professor) are the reasons he is the best instructor I have had at ACU.

Programming I was the most properly planned course I have attended at ACU. From the first day of class, I was provided with every single assignment, due date, supporting reading, and video I would need for the rest of the semester. These provisions created an ideal amount of structure: I was given all the necessary direction and freedom to work ahead in the course if I wanted to. At the same time, since there was only one weekly due date for assignments, I had control over when I completed and turned in my assignments each week. This gave me more autonomy than most courses to learn at a slower pace if I wanted to. In addition, Dr. Homer provided us with six hours of free tutoring a week and was very quick to respond to any inquiries we emailed him. Resultantly, he created a system where if a student desired to succeed in this course on any level, he was given all necessary resources to do so, thus being well supported.

Dr. Homer is the best teacher I have experienced at ACU. Since I had absolutely no foreknowledge of computer programming, as a marketing and psychology major, I was very concerned about taking Programming I. However, Dr. Homer always explained the concepts so clearly that even I, a beginner, fully understood them. Furthermore, he always welcomed any questions throughout his lecture, never making me feel like I was slowing the class down or inconveniencing him. Moreover, his lectures were always concise, meaning that he never gave students the chance to be bored because he never wasted our time through giving us superfluous information.

Dr. Homer is also patient and approachable. I am confident that the primary reason I was able to achieve the second highest grade in his course, despite coming in with no programming knowledge what so ever, is because I felt comfortable asking more questions than I typically did in other courses. My comfort arose from his consistent patience with me. No matter how long it took, he was willing to elucidate every topic I was confused about until I felt comfortable with the material. Additionally, he functioned out of so much joy and treated me with such dignity that I never felt discouraged, unintelligent, or burdensome while asking him for help.

Teaching and course structure aside, Dr. Homer goes above and beyond what is required of a professor to ensure the best student experience possible. Dr. Homer has never said no to helping me with a program even after class has ended. He could have chosen to do what all professors do and ask me to attend his office hours or email him. However, he chose to go the extra mile and stay after class ended. Also, even outside of programming, Dr. Homer regularly asked about how I was doing and invested in me as a person. I came to Dr. Homer's class numerous times evidently troubled by something, and he patiently listened and advised me on topics such as how to address conflict with people and what to look for in a doctorate program. Finally, Dr. Homer is so joyful and humorous that he turned what could have been a dry programming course into

one of the most enjoyable courses at ACU. I know I am not the only one who thinks so because whenever I mentioned that I was taking programming I with Dr. Homer to computer science majors, they would start telling me about how funny, approachable, and talented of a teacher he was. His students clearly respect and love him.

All in all, through being my Programming I professor, Dr. Homer has sufficiently demonstrated his exemplary organizational skills, unparalleled teaching abilities, and character, caring for students beyond what is expected of a professor. Had I not graduated, I would have been honored to take more courses with him, and know that all the other students feel privileged to continue studying under him. I sincerely hope that Dr. Homer's efforts and successes as a teacher will be rewarded through his becoming tenured. If you have any further questions about my experience with Dr. Homer please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lily Assaad
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