

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Dr. Homer. I have said multiple times that Dr. Homer is one of the best teachers I had at ACU. There are three things that I think make a great teacher: the ability to communicate information, answer questions, and care about students. Dr. Homer is an excellent example of a professor who has all three qualities.

First, Dr. Homer communicates information very well. I had Dr. Homer in programming I and II when I had not taken any programming classes before, as well as in algorithms, one of the most advanced and hardest classes in the CS department. Dr. Homer is able to explain programming concepts at both a beginner and more advanced level. Dr. Homer clearly puts thought into his lessons. This can be seen in small things like in the examples he gives and even the order of slides. After talking to students who took programming I last year, it was clear that Dr. Homer updates and changes his classes each year instead of just re-using the same old material.

Second, Dr. Homer is able to answer questions and explain material in different ways. Multiple times in class, or in Dr. Homer's office, someone has asked Dr. Homer to explain a concept in a different way. Instead of repeating his original explanation, Dr. Homer thinks for a second and then finds a new way of explaining something. There was one algorithm topic that Dr. Homer explained three or four different ways when people did not understand what was going on. I consider the ability to explain things multiple ways as a hallmark not only of an extremely intelligent person, but also of a great teacher. Not everyone learns the same way, and Dr. Homer does an outstanding job of making sure to not assume one way of explaining something like dynamic programming is sufficient.

Third, Dr. Homer cares about his students. He wrote me multiple letters of recommendation for graduate school on a rather late notice. He brings brownies on dead day. He lets students come in his office and helps them write algorithms or debug code. He teaches a chapel for SITC students that I attended and loved. He never belittles students for asking questions. Every Monday when I took algorithms I came to ask Dr. Homer questions about the homework, and he was helpful every time.

Although I did not research with Dr. Homer, I knew two students who did, and both always spoke highly of how he conducted his research. Several of his teaching assistants were my close friends, and also spoke highly of his integrity and kindness in planning lessons and dealing with difficult situations.

I would strongly recommend Dr. Homer for the position of full professor. I know he made my experience as a computer science major at ACU better and I am glad that he will be there to teach the next generation of students.

Sincerely,
Rachael Shudde '18