

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee,

Dr. Ehrke has taught three of my classes during my ACU career: Calculus II, Discrete Mathematics, and Ordinary Differential Equations. There are a few things from class to class that have remained consistent: Dr. Ehrke will challenge you, he will help you, and he will care for you.

Every class that I have taken with Dr. Ehrke has been fairly difficult. The difficulty in these classes are not because of confusion but instead because Dr. Ehrke pushes his students to go beyond just what the coursework calls for and try to actually apply the knowledge learned in a class to something that you may not have been taught quite yet. Dr. Ehrke does not intend to push his students so hard that they fail, but instead he carefully watches their mentality so as to let off the gas pedal when the time is needed. Most of the time, this challenging coursework has allowed me to understand more fully the subject instead of just learning what I need to know for the test and moving on.

Dr. Ehrke has also been very gracious with helping his students in the classes and encourages students to come by his office. He seems to understand that this material is hard, and he is willing to walk you through a homework problem step-by-step until you fully grasp the problem. Dr. Ehrke makes known his office hours but also allows students to show up at any time he is there or even call him on the weekends when they are in need of assistance on a particularly rough problem. If a student were to take one of Dr. Ehrke's classes and claim to not understand the subject, they most likely have not visited with him outside of class time.

While a math classroom is generally not a place where God is usually brought up, Dr. Ehrke is an example to his class of what a Christian leader can look like without actually talking about Christianity. Dr. Ehrke cares deeply for all of his students and is willing to help students out beyond the classes he teaches. When I asked Dr. Ehrke to write two letters of recommendation for me, there was no hesitation from him and he completed them quickly even though he was probably swamped with grading. Also, Dr. Ehrke cares about how students react to his classes. He is very willing to admit mistakes. If his lesson plan does not go as well as he planned for a semester, Dr. Ehrke will rethink his strategy for the class and start anew. If he notices during a semester that students are becoming lost, Dr. Ehrke will slow things down and not worry about material that might not be able to be squeezed in at the end.

Dr. Ehrke is an amazing professor and a terrific mentor for any student. Dr. Ehrke has definitely helped me mature as a math student. It has been a blessing to have Dr. Ehrke for three of my classes, and as I am about to enter my last semester of my undergraduate career, I hope that I will be able to have Dr. Ehrke for a fourth class.

Brandon Coombes