Dear Admission Committee,

I am writing this recommendation letter for [XXX]. [XXX] took ECE 264 "Advanced C Programming" in [semester]. [XXX] did quite well and received [grade].

ECE 264 is the second programming class for the students in Computer Engineering. It is also taken by many students in other departments. In ECE 264, students learn file operations, stack and heap memory, dynamic memory management, structures, linked lists, binary trees, Makefile, and recursion. The assignments integrate many concepts mentioned above. In this class, students need to develop solutions before coding and to have good programming styles. They also learn how to write programs with multiple files. Students have to learn many tools, such as using gdb for debugging and using valgrind for checking memory leak. ECE 264 is often the turning point where students decide whether to continue pursuing degrees in Computer Engineering or transfer to other departments. The reason is that the students no longer write small "toy" programs. Instead, students have to write programs that solve non-trivial problems. As all software developers know, the difficulty of writing programs grows quickly as the programs become more complex. One common problem is that many students are used to writing code without planning. As their programs become more complex, the students quickly lose track of the changes and cannot improve or debug their programs any more. [XXX] did well in this course and demonstrated the ability to develop C programs correctly. I am confident that [XXX] would be successful in your graduate program. I encourage your favorable consideration of the application.

I am a full professor at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University. I am an ACM Distinguished Scientist and Speaker. I published one book on C programming (CRC Press, 9781498711630). I am also a cofounder (with three former students in my research team) and the scientific advisor of a startup company that receives SBIR-1 and SBIR-2 from the National Science Foundation. In 2019-2021, I am the Engineering Dean's Fellow in Entrepreneurship coordinating the entrepreneurship programs.

Sincerely,
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