

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Austin Hutchen's application for your institution. I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and I worked directly with Austin in a classroom setting for a college-level calculus course. During my time working with him, I saw firsthand Austin's effectiveness as an educator and his passion and dedication to teaching.

During the semester, my role involved leading recitations, which are group-work active learning sessions. Austin's role as a Learning Assistant involved him engaging students as a peer mentor and facilitating their learning during the recitations. The most noticeable thing about Austin's interactions with students is how remarkably approachable he is. With these positive interactions, Austin was able to build a free environment where students seek guidance without hesitation. One example of this is how students once stayed after class to ask him about his thoughts on artificial intelligence and its implications.

Austin is also skilled at placing himself in the student's shoes, which makes him very relatable as an educator. One way he achieves this is by thinking back to what it was like for him to learn the concept being discussed for the first time. As for his general approach, Austin was always focused on evoking student understanding by asking leading questions, rather than giving out answers. This approach meant that every student received the support they needed in a way geared towards their unique way of learning.

In addition, Austin has demonstrated a firm dedication to the teaching profession itself. While working as a learning assistant, Austin took a pedagogy course and was diligent about incorporating the theories and data he learned about into his practice. He also highly valued student feedback and took multiple surveys throughout the semester to evaluate his performance and find areas to improve on.

For these reasons, I believe that Austin has immense potential as an educator and I strongly recommend him as an addition to your team.

Thank you,

Ezzeddine El Sai

Ezzeddine.elsai@colorado.edu