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To the Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Jane Doe as she pursues acceptance to your graduate program.

Jane was a student in my CSC111: Introduction to CS Through Programming class in the Spring 2018 term. CSC111 is a first programming course taught in Python, where in addition to learning language syntax, students learn computer science concepts (e.g., block-structure, object-orientation, recursion, graphics, and primitives), and how to design, develop, and test their programs. The class consists of six hours of supervised instruction per week (including laboratory instruction), as well as weekly exercises and assignments to be completed independently.

Asked / answered questions in class / lab. Attended office hours.

In this context, I had an opportunity to observe Jane's engagement with complex multi-step problems with no correct answer, as well as evaluate her technical competence and mastery of Python. Although there were 99 students in my class, I quickly got to know Jane as she frequently shared insights in class and office hours. Jane is a self-starter and entrepreneurial in her work. In class and in lab, she confidently discussed problems on the whiteboard and faced challenges head-on.

Jane's final project in CSC111, "Smith Craft Supreme", was a text-based Python program that gives activity recommendations for craft lovers. In the program, users choose between potential scenarios based on their budget and the program iteratively recommends craft ideas. If the user likes a craft idea then the program launches a web-browser and loads the appropriate website for the user to purchase the supplies. Jane wrote a substantial portion of the code for her project, while other group members researched craft ideas and focused on the visual graphics. She is a clear communicator, lead the group presentation, and efficiently managed her group interactions. Jane excelled in all the learning objectives in my course and received a final grade of 98%.

Tells the prof. how the project is going during the project.

In addition to her work in computer science, Jane has a broad background with a strong focus in chemistry and statistics. She discussed her prior research work in statistical models for purity of chemical compounds at length with me and is passionate about creating more transparency for customers in the nutritional supplementation market, and is able to approach this problem from an intersectional perspective.

I believe that Jane's technical skills, paired with her self-motivation and curiosity will serve her well as she continues to work toward applying her knowledge of computer science for discoveries in health. From her performance in my course and our continued discussion of her work, I believe she is an excellent candidate for your program. As such, I recommend Jane for your consideration without reservation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

The Frizz

Valerie Frizzle, Ph.D.

Stopped by less busy office hours to share other interests and connect with the prof. on more than one occasion. Connects course materials to broader life goals.

Jane is not a CS Major. Jane is pursuing graduate studies in something chemistry, but wanted a letter from outside her major to demonstrate breadth of skillset.