

**Professor David R. Hodge**

Ph.D., MSW

Distinguished Professor of Spirituality, Religion and Culture

School of Social Work

Arizona State University

**Admissions Committee**

Arizona State University

Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Christopher Matthew Riley in support of his application to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Arizona State University. As Chris's professor in Diversity/Oppression and Social Work (SWU 374), I have had the pleasure of witnessing firsthand his exceptional academic capabilities, commitment to public service, and leadership potential.

Throughout my course, Chris demonstrated an intellectual curiosity and dedication that was noticeable. His critical thinking skills were evident in both class discussions and written assignments, where he consistently applied theoretical frameworks to real-world challenges. Whether engaging with complex intersectional identity analysis or tackling issues of media stereotypes, Chris consistently demonstrated an ability to synthesize information, articulate clear and thoughtful arguments, and present innovative solutions. His ability to approach diverse and cultural challenges with both analytical rigor and a deep sense of social responsibility speaks volumes about his potential as a future leader in public administration.

Beyond the Dean's List, Chris possesses the personal qualities that are essential for a career in public service. He is compassionate, ethical, and dedicated to making a meaningful impact on society. I have seen firsthand how Chris approaches leadership, not only with competence but with a strong sense of empathy, inclusivity and humility. He was always willing to collaborate with others, displaying a willingness to listen, learn, and grow in every endeavor.

What truly distinguishes Chris is his genuine passion for public service. Whether through reflecting on familial privilege or seeking to understand different cultural ways of life, Chris has shown he can be understood as consistent and unwavering to his commitment to improving public systems and advocating for the common good. His career aspirations align perfectly with the values and goals of an MPA program, and I have no doubt that he will bring the same level of dedication, intellectual rigor, and ethical leadership to the program as he had in my course.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Chris for admission to the Master of Public Administration program. I am confident that he will thrive in an academic environment that

challenges him intellectually and prepares him for leadership roles in the public sector. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
*David R. Hodge*  
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