

Re: Recommendation Letter for Adam Olson

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Professor Adam Olson. I would recommend him as a candidate for promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

I first met Professor Olson electronically in early 2011 when he called me to conduct my interview for the MPRT program. Three years later, as a senior in this program, I have had many opportunities to get to know him as both a professor and an advisor.

As my advisor, Professor Olson has allowed me to choose my own classes with just enough guidance to ensure I can graduate on time, and he lets me handle my own paperwork to the best of my ability. He makes sure that nothing important is forgotten, but he won't step in when he knows it's something I can accomplish until it's clear that I'm not aware of the issue. I have had to rearrange the courses in my track sheet several times in order to fit in the Christian Leadership Program I was determined to include, and each time Professor Olson would only intervene if I was planning to take a class in a semester when it wasn't offered, or if I was trying to take something out of order and had skipped an important prerequisite. His advising style prepares students to manage our own paperwork and career planning in the future.

Professor Olson also teaches the MIDI and Electronic Synthesis class and a follow-up class on analog synthesizers. In every course, he emphasizes signal flow and ensures that students understand how all the elements of our signal path work together. Sometimes it's frustrating, as he'll choose the least-known bit of signal flow to screw up and then watch us frantically try to figure it out, but after that experience we have a hard time forgetting that particular step in the process. After these three years of struggling with signal flow and constantly discovering a new step that I had skipped, I was shocked to discover this semester that I can now troubleshoot the majority of the problems I encounter during my studio sessions. The frustration and headaches pay off, and I honestly do not think many students could excel in the MPRT program without Olson's determination to teach us how crucial every little detail can be and how all of these details come together to create a functional signal path.

In short, I recommend Professor Olson enthusiastically. He has done a great deal to prepare MPRT students for real-world challenges and 'worst day ever' scenarios, and as an Associate Professor he would be further empowered to do this important work. You are welcome to contact me via email with any further questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Virginia Greer
Shenandoah University Class of 2015
Music Production & Recording Technology