



April 2, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this recommendation letter on behalf of Michael C. O'Brien. Michael was a student in my General Chemistry II class at Daytona State College in the fall of 2005. I taught Michael in both lecture and lab sections.

When I prepare a recommendation for a student, I try to express more than simply "how well did the student perform in my class." Chemistry as a pre-requisite for many majors tells me its intent is to hone critical thinking skills. Simple memorization of facts isn't adequate to enhance thinking. Therefore, my criteria for recommending students are: how did the student evaluate my course requirements, what method(s) did the student use for meeting those requirements, was the selected method effective, and if not, how did the student adjust to progress successfully through the course? In asking for a recommendation, does the student understand what the goals he has set will entail? If I can answer these questions in a positive manner about the student, I can confidently recommend the student. Michael is one of those students I can recommend without question.

Michael had a very systematic method for developing a timeline for completing assignments. He put forth maximum effort on each event so as to succeed in my class. He was always prepared and on time with assignments. He consistently scored in the top 5% on my course requirements (examination, laboratory reports, and unannounced quizzes). His critical thinking skills are superior; I evaluated critical thinking and analysis on each exam and in each laboratory experiment. Michael was consistent in his ability to look beyond the words and numbers to find the root of each idea, and then express it clearly and concisely.

Michael also has a very approachable personality. Other students sought him out for assistance and he willingly helped. He is a mature individual with strong personal and professional priorities, and I am confident he will achieve all his personal and professional goals.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Endebrock  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Daytona State College