

November 9, 2012

Re: Jaclyn Gold

Dear Madam/Sir:

It is a pleasure to write in support of Jaclyn Gold's application for your MSW program. Jaclyn is an outstanding person who is doing outstanding academic work here at UCSB and who do superlative work in graduate school. Jaclyn has a 3.99 GPA in sociology and 3.72 overall GPA. She has double majored in Sociology and Psychology. She has been on the Deans List on numerous quarters. I have known Jaclyn for about two and a half years, and I am very impressed with her as a student and caring person. She is an amazing individual, whose voice and face sparkle with enthusiasm. She is a hard worker and she knows that them MSW will open up the career choices that she is eager to fulfill.

I first saw Jaclyn's intellectual abilities when she earned one of the highest grades in my very large Soc 152A course (the Sociology of Human Sexuality). Next I invited her to be in the small honors class (Soc 152B) that I offered the following quarter for the best 18 students from the large 152A class (which has about 600 students each quarter of the year). In the small class I came to know Jaclyn quite well. She always made intelligent and thoughtful contributions, and she was one of the central leaders of many important class discussions. She has very high standards for her own work and a great eye for detail. She has a cheerful personality that made the class especially positive during the quarter that she took 152B.

Because Jaclyn is a very good writer, I next invited her to join my Soc 152C class, which is creating a university-sponsored website that presents scientific information about human sexuality and relationships, designed for people all around the world and reaching 180 different nations. Jaclyn was an obvious choice because she is so intelligent, articulate and responsible. She has participated in Soc 152C for six quarters and written many extremely valuable contributions. She is always reliable and responsible in her work—one of those people who I can always trust to make everything work well. She has come to understand so many of the complexities of the website that we are building, that I have given her central roles in running the website. Jaclyn always does her work on time and is very reliable.

Jaclyn has outstanding communication skills: She speaks clearly and dynamically, capturing her audience's attention by the interesting ways she develops her logic. She is creative in solving problems and helping people work together cooperatively. She is a team player who is exceptionally well organized and makes sure that her work and the work of others are done professionally, carefully, and with attention to detail. She is well liked by her peers—and by the faculty with whom she works. Jaclyn is one of the most hard-working, honest people you could hope to know.

Jaclyn has known for the past two years that social work would be the profession that would be most gratifying for her. Ever since the eleventh grade she has known that she wants a career that will help other people make their lives happier and more fulfilling. Jaclyn has several jobs on campus and in the city of Santa Barbara—which have helped her develop a broad range of practical skills. She has received two scholarships that help her finance her college education, and I would strongly encourage you to offer her financial aid for graduate school.

In summary, I think Jaclyn is a truly amazing person who will make many valuable contributions to our society during her lifetime. Jaclyn is forward looking, with the ability to plan her time and activities to attain long-term goals. In addition to having a keen mind, she is serious, conscientious, hard working and very responsible. She is both an excellent student and a happy, well-adjusted person with whom it is a pleasure to work. Jaclyn earns my highest level of recommendation. If I can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to phone me at (805) 967-4995.

Sincerely,

John D. Baldwin
Professor
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