

Letter of Reference for Itzel Hernandez

It is a pleasure for me to write a letter of recommendation for Itzel.

Harvey Mudd College offers degrees only in science, mathematics, and engineering. Because of this we attract students who are committed to science, and we can teach technical courses at a higher level than is typical in an undergraduate curriculum. All of our students spend their first three semesters in our Core curriculum. In this course sequence students take courses in physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, and writing, as well as a variety of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and the arts. This curriculum has provided Itzel with an unusually broad exposure to the sciences and gives her the ability to work across disciplines. Itzel has done well in this curriculum, earning an overall GPA of 3.3.

I met Itzel in the fall of 2021, during her sophomore year, when I taught her in Electromagnetic Theory & Optics (Physics 51). The course is taught out of Purcell and Morin's *Electricity and Magnetism*, a book well-known for its challenging problems and sophisticated introduction to the topic. This course is not required, but is recommended for engineering majors; about half the engineers take it. Itzel was engaged in the course, serious about learning electricity and magnetism, and was a pleasure to have in section.

Itzel has made a fast start of developing her professional skills, becoming involved in research early in her undergraduate career. She spent the last year working in Prof. Mendelson's Flow Imaging Lab. As part of that effort, Itzel, has learned both AutoCad and SolidWorks and worked with a variety of industrial tools such as lathes, mills, and 3D printers. I'll leave it to Prof. Mendelson to say more about Itzel's work in the lab.

On the non-academic side of her college career, Itzel runs on the college's cross-country and track teams. Last semester, she showed up every day to my 9 am section having been up since 5:30 am and having already run miles on the road. She is dedicated and focused.

I hope this letter conveys my very high opinion of Itzel; I highly recommend her to your program.

Sincerely,

Tom Donnelly