BSU

Boundary State University

Department of Computer Science · Boundary State University · 320 Iverson Hall, Bloomington IN 47405

March 9, 2026

Admissions Committee
Stanford Graduate School of Engineering
475 Via Ortega, Stanford CA 94305

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Yusuf Sadiq — Graduate Application

To the Admissions Committee,

It is my pleasure and privilege to recommend Yusuf Sadiq for admission to your graduate program in Computer Science. I have known him as my advisee since 2024 in CS-541 (Advanced Algorithms) and CS-580 (Distributed Systems), where he placed in the top three of a cohort of fifty-two students, and over the past eighteen months I have supervised his independent research in our Networked Systems Lab. Few students at this stage of their training combine analytical depth with intellectual curiosity to the degree he does, and I write with the confidence that he will excel at Stanford.

Yusuf's record speaks plainly to his abilities. He maintains a 3.94 GPA across a demanding course load that includes our most difficult systems sequence, and he served as lead author on a paper accepted to USENIX ATC 2025 — an unusual outcome for an undergraduate. As project lead for our consensus-protocol simulator he coordinated a team of four, shipped working code in twelve weeks, and reduced median latency in the reference benchmark by 37 percent. He has also TA'd CS-241 (Operating Systems) for two consecutive semesters, where his teaching evaluations placed him in the 96th percentile of all departmental TAs.

Beyond raw accomplishment, what most distinguishes Yusuf is his temperament. He is unfailingly considerate of his collaborators, generous with credit, and genuinely interested in problems for their own sake. I think back to a difficult evening last spring when our test cluster failed during the week before a paper deadline: while two senior students grew despondent, Yusuf calmly traced the issue to a kernel scheduler regression, drafted a minimal reproducer, and had a workaround in place before midnight. That combination of composure and craftsmanship is rare, and it is the quality I most associate with researchers who go on to do important work.

I strongly recommend Yusuf Sadiq for admission, and I do so without reservation. In nineteen years on this faculty I can recall only a handful of undergraduates who I felt were certain to thrive in a top-tier doctoral environment; he sits comfortably among them. He is ready for graduate study, and your department would gain a colleague whose contributions will be felt well beyond his cohort.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can provide any further detail — by phone, by email, or via a video call at your convenience. I would welcome the conversation, and I am happy to speak to any aspect of his preparation in greater depth than this letter allows.

Sincerely,

Dr. Helena Faraone
Associate Professor of Computer Science
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