

## **Evergreen Master of Public Administration Admissions Essay**

### **Personal Statement Written by Kate Aronson**

I was inspired to choose public administration for many reasons - first, I worked for Child Protective Services (CPS) in Texas and for the Office of Children's Services (OCS) in Alaska for a total of four years. While challenging, the experience was completely rewarding. It taught me what it takes to be an extraordinary caseworker and showed me there is so much to learn in the world of social work. Working for CPS also showed me firsthand the ways in which vulnerable populations are often marginalized and overlooked by society, and left me wanting to create a more equitable and inclusive world for all.

Secondly, prior to and following my time with CPS and OCS, I worked as a private school teacher and nanny. The stark differences between the families I nannied for and that of the families I served working in CPS was dumbfounding. The socio-economic gap between both groups was just one portion, and although that was concerning in and of itself, I couldn't help but feel frustrated with the racial, social, and health divides that were also present between the two groups. Needless to say, the families I served in CPS experienced the world in a much different light than the families I served otherwise. It caused me to question why some have access to certain lifestyles, while others have difficulty paying for food for their growing families while working full time jobs.

Thirdly, I'm realizing more and more every day that more people are desperately needed to advocate for and work towards creating more equity, empathy, and overall

awareness of these issues - both in our community and in society at large. I'm driven to formally study public administration so that I can gain a deeper understanding of the societal and policy structures which cause these different experiences, and join the ranks of those who are trying to change it. I know that deepening my knowledge, understanding, and perspective in the field of public administration will allow me to realize my full potential of helping others and advocating for what is just.

Throughout my time working in child protective services, I have come to understand the importance of policy in shaping the child welfare system and its outcomes. I have seen how policies can either enable or inhibit the provision of services and support to children and families in need, and I have realized that I want to be a part of creating policies that can truly make a difference. I believe that the Master of Public Administration program at Evergreen State College can provide me with the knowledge and skills necessary to become an effective policy maker.

I am particularly drawn to the program's focus on social justice and sustainability. The program's mission to "develop ethical, reflective practitioners who can lead in creating a more just and sustainable society" aligns with my own personal and professional goals of service to others, social justice, and advocacy. I am excited about the program's emphasis on hands-on, experiential learning, as I believe that this will provide me with the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to real-world situations, and give me the skills and knowledge that I need to become a strong policy maker.

I am also excited to study public administration in the Pacific Northwest. The region has a long history of progressive social and environmental policies, and I am eager to learn from and be a part of this community. Having a foundation of progressive

learning will prepare me to create policies that are inclusive, equitable, and intersectional. Furthermore, the program's emphasis on community engagement and its location in the Pacific Northwest will hopefully provide many opportunities to work with organizations which also align with these values.

Evergreen's focus on diverse perspectives and approaches to problem-solving is also very important to me. As a person who has worked with marginalized communities, I understand the importance of approaching policy-making with a holistic, intersectional lens. I look forward to learning from and collaborating with a diverse group of students and faculty, and I believe that the program's emphasis on inclusive leadership will be invaluable in my future career.

In conclusion, my experience in CPS and OCS has led me to learn more about the world of public administration. I hope that working in public administration with a focus in public policy allow me to work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive world for children and families, and I believe that the MPA program at Evergreen State College is the perfect next step for me in achieving this goal. Evergreen's focus on social justice, sustainability, community engagement, diverse perspectives, and inclusive leadership, as well as its emphasis on hands-on learning, will provide me with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve my goals of working in child welfare policy. I am eager to be a part of the dynamic community of students and faculty at Evergreen and to contribute to creating a more just and sustainable society for all children in the child welfare system.