

Evergreen College MPA Application Statement of Purpose
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There are several motivations for my applying to the Evergreen MPA program, both micro and macro, and for each there is a multitude of reasoning. Evergreen specifically attracts me because of the self-led nature of its programs, as well as its reputation in the community. Though I have only lived in Washington for a year, the number of Evergreen alum and students I have interacted with is substantial, and each one of them has been thoughtful and kind and community oriented. It would be a pleasure to be a part of the Evergreen community, and to have the opportunity to learn alongside other students who are motivated to serve their communities.

Education is both a singular undertaking and a collaborative effort. On a micro, personal level, I am applying because believe that this program will help give me the tools to be the best professional version of myself that I can be. MPA programs, I have learned, are also about the connections you make with others in similar organizations that you are in. Growing that network and making those connections are just as valuable as the in class education you receive. It is a way to share ideas and information about your environment that helps everyone better serve the people that they work for.

My work experience and experience in different communities is a driving force in my desire to enroll at Evergreen and continue my MPA. I have had the opportunity to work with some really awesome community members, and truly that is what motivates me to work in the public sector and to pursue this degree. From the east side of Detroit to the five consortium tribes that South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency serves, I have seen the distrust that community members have of government agencies, nonprofits and charities because of the instability and

violence those organizations have done to them. I want to be able to best support the community members that I work with, while also supporting the organization and helping to ensure its sustainability and effectiveness. I have learned that robust, proactive, and in-tune administrative bodies are key for providing comprehensive services to a community, and for providing support to those who work in the programs that provide those services.

As a potential transfer student, one of my main motivating factors is to finish what I have started. Working full time and going to school full time while in isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic proved to be too much for me, though my desire to complete my degree and continue to learn was still there. During my time at Wayne State, I learned a lot regarding the theory of Public Administration, however I felt that there was very little about practical, every day administration that we were taught. Perhaps that was coming in later courses, but nonetheless, Evergreen looks to provide a more real world based learning experience, and for that I am very excited to apply to this program.

Throughout this statement, there has been a focus on community because my main goal is to be at service to those around me. That is why I pursued an MPA to begin with, because I believed that it would help enable me to be able to provide better service, and to help my colleagues to do the same. While I know I can and have done work in various communities without the degree, entering into this program is about more than earning a piece of paper. It is about continuing to take in other perspectives and to gain and refine the tools to help better serve.

