

Amanda Hathaway

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### Statement of Purpose

My road to public service started with the persuasion of my husband. He's a public servant. His sister is a public servant. His parents are retired public servants. I was working a terrible, high stress job, and commuting to Sumner from Lacey every day. I was always anxious and couldn't sleep due to calls from my bosses coming at all times of the evening and early morning. I had finally found an entry level communications position at the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) I was qualified for and gave it a shot. I was hired and almost instantly started feeling valued and a sense of pride for my work, feeling like the work I was doing made an impact in our communities. My positions evolved at the UTC, and I started doing some legislative work while leaning into policy. Legislation and policy intrigued me, and I felt like I finally found my calling. I made it my personal growth plan to make it into a policy advising role someday. Roughly 15 months ago, I found a full time legislative position at the Dept. of Commerce. I loved what I was doing at the UTC but had hit a plateau if I wanted to get into policy, so I took a chance on myself and applied. I was offered the position, and joined Commerce's Government Affairs and Policy team as the agency's legislative and rules coordinator. Commerce has done a fantastic job cultivating an environment that allows their employees to feel like what they do is making a difference for Washingtonians. It's that feeling that keeps me in public service. That I am making a positive impact on communities.

I had been wanting to get my master's for a long time, but nothing was lighting that fire in me. Recently, the thought of getting a Public Administration/Public Policy Certificate popped into mind and I started doing research on it. At the time a certificate seemed like the most logical and

efficient thing to do being a full time working mom with two toddlers. After moving on to master's programs, I came across the program at Evergreen. Many of my coworkers went to Evergreen, so I started asking them questions. Their positive experiences, the course schedules, affordability, the reputation the program has, and the Mission sold me. Specifically in the Mission, the *advocate powerfully on behalf of the public* portion. I have an advocate's heart and in my free time, I can be found peacefully marching at the Capitol for safety and equality, or being a patient advocate with the Washington Family Building Coalition that I've alluded to in my Public Policy Memo and mentioned in my resume. Plus, I've attended a few events on campus and Evergreen just felt like a good fit. The fire has been lit.

I must admit, I was hesitant at first to apply for the program. Denial being my number 1 fear, causing the fire to go out. You can see from my transcript that my GPA suffered around the time I took a few pre-requisites from Tacoma Community College. That was an extremely rough and dark time in my life. My brother died unexpectedly, then we learned that my favorite person, my grandmother, had cancer spread throughout her body and had a short amount of time to live. So while attempting to hold my full time job and school, I was traveling to Spokane every chance I had to spend time with her. Over the next year, there were peaks and valleys in my days, which is also reflected in the energy I put into some classes. By my senior year, I started taking care of myself better with counseling and depression medication, and was able to give a better effort into my schooling. Your website gave me hope, encouraging me to apply, despite not quite having that 3.0 GPA.

I hope that you find with my Public Policy Memo, this Statement of Purpose, resume, and recommendations that I am a good, qualified fit for Evergreen's MPA program.