

Statement of Purpose: Master's in Public Administration

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am writing this statement of purpose to express my desire to pursue a master's in public administration (MPA) at Evergreen State College - Tacoma. With a clear passion for public service and a drive to effect meaningful change in society, I know that an MPA will equip me with the necessary knowledge, skills, and networks to become an effective leader in the public sector.

Since I was a child, I have been inspired by the idea of making a positive impact on people's lives and contributing to the betterment of society. I specifically have a keen interest in creating policies that positively impact marginalized communities. This passion has driven me to engage in various volunteer activities and internships, where I have had the opportunity to work closely with diverse communities, understand their needs, and witness the potential of public administration to address social challenges. These experiences have not only solidified my commitment to public service but also highlighted the importance of a firm understanding of public policy, management, and governance.

One significant experience that has shaped my understanding of the public sector is my internship with the Washington State Legislature. During my internship, I had the privilege of working closely with state legislators and staff, witnessing the intricate processes of policymaking and gaining firsthand knowledge of the challenges and complexities inherent in the legislative arena. Collaborating with dedicated professionals, I contributed to research projects, analyzed bills, and drafted memos on critical issues affecting our state. This experience provided valuable insights into the interplay between government institutions, community engagement, and the importance of effective public administration in translating policy into action.

The multidisciplinary curriculum of Evergreen State College - Tacoma's MPA program, with its focus on policy analysis, organizational management, public finance, and leadership, aligns perfectly with my career aspirations.

I am particularly excited about the program's emphasis on practical application through internships, capstone projects, and experiential learning opportunities. These hands-on experiences will enable me to bridge the gap between theory and practice, preparing me to tackle complex societal issues effectively. During the last quarter of my bachelor's program, I interned with The Evergreen Empowerment Group, a nonprofit organization that specializes in criminal expungements and utilizes the law and public policy to ensure citizens can live full lives unencumbered by past mistakes.

During the same quarter, I interned for a governmental relations firm that partnered with multiple agencies and organizations to continue the work toward banning flavored tobacco in Washington state. I will continue working with both organizations this summer.

As an Evergreen Tacoma alumnus, I have had the experience of being fully supported by this learning community. With the support of Evergreen, I have grown my public speaking and presenting acumen, I have worked in groups of many kinds, annually teaming up on research projects, and through my experience as a student government leader, I have leaned in to listen more, and utilize the strengths of my team. I'm a driver, I like to get things done. I have big ideas and plans for my future and the legacy I leave behind to my children and the world.

The learning community includes the faculty. I am drawn to The Evergreen's esteemed faculty, renowned for their expertise in public administration and policy research. Dr. Tyrus Smith made me respect research and strive to do it "correctly" and with humility and grace. I look forward to the opportunity to learn from distinguished professors and engage in collaborative discussions with a

diverse cohort of students. This will only enhance my intellectual growth and broaden my perspectives. I am eager to contribute to and learn from the vibrant learning community.

In addition to academic pursuits, I am keenly interested in leveraging technology and data analytics to drive evidence-based decision-making and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services. As a current employee of The City of Seattle, I see first-hand what successes and failures in the public sector look and feel like from both citizens of Seattle and those of us employed there. Furthermore, I am eager to engage in extracurricular activities, such as joining student organizations focused on public policy advocacy or participating in public administration conferences, to further expand my knowledge and network.

Ultimately, my long-term goal is to be a judge; my desire to obtain an MPA directly correlates to achieving this goal. Judges need to have deep knowledge and understanding of government, laws, and research. By understanding policies and laws fully, I ensure that I can be a public servant in the most genuine way possible. I want to intricately understand policy; the MPA program will ensure I have a strong foundation and an ability to ascertain community needs and realities. Knowledge of how to devise innovative policies, implement sustainable solutions, and promote social equity and therein develop the essential skills in policy analysis, strategic planning, financial management, and collaborative leadership that are necessary to excel in this field. I am confident that The Evergreen State College Tacoma's MPA program will provide the ideal platform for me to gain the expertise and networks required to achieve my goals.

I am honored to be considered for admission to The Evergreen State College Tacoma's MPA program, and I am excited about the potential to contribute to the program's academic and social fabric. I assure you that I will approach my studies with dedication, curiosity, and a commitment to excellence. I am

ready to immerse myself in the challenging and transformative environment of Evergreen's MPA program and make a lasting impact through my work in the public sector.

Thank you for considering my application. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to join the distinguished community at The Evergreen State College Tacoma's MPA program and embark on this rewarding journey of personal and professional growth.

Sincerely,

Onya Robertson