

Frances Rohr: Statement of Purpose

I am excited to take my formal education to the next level. The knowledge I have gained as an undergraduate has been extremely valuable, particularly through The Evergreen State College. I used my education immediately in my professional career. My experience with The Native Pathways Program helped me see the need for higher education in Indigenous Communities and within myself, as there are many areas in need of solid leadership and fresh ideas.

Before attending Evergreen, I was the Tribal Employment Rights Officer (TERO) for the Nisqually Indian Tribe for several years. During that time, I learned how to read and understand tribal laws and codes. I learned how to manage a budget and run a department. During my time as the TERO officer, I was awarded the 2017 Navarro Award of Excellence for the best program in Indian Country.

I have learned a lot about tribes and tribal sovereignty in my overall academic and career. I would like to learn how to run a tribally owned non-profit and continue to make strides in this arena to help Native Communities. There are many areas that are in need of attention in social services. I would like to run and develop a non-profit that would encompass areas of health, wellness, and the arts with tribal peoples.

I feel a responsibility to take my education to the next level for many reasons--the main one being to further the goals I have in my life and to accomplish things greater than I can conceive at this moment. The beauty of school for me is that it has opened doors to many new opportunities and my mind in such a beautifully productive way.

Evergreen's academic model compliments the foundation of my mode of operation on so many levels. It is in alignment with how our tribal communities operate as well.

I would like to help bridge the gap between people and services in tribal communities, and earning an MPA would help with that--I need to understand all aspects of public administration. I am particularly interested in the Non-profit sector of the Masters in Public Administration. I hope to continue to learn and grow in this area of expertise and transfer the knowledge gained in real time.

The flexibility within this program would allow me to pursue other areas of interest while working toward a graduate degree. I am interested in film and media development. I recently got certified in Introduction to Promotional Video through Evergreen, and I would like to continue working with film as a pathway to health and wellness.

I believe the MPA will open up doors creating vast opportunities in my world. I have big goals and dreams when it comes to public arts and what that looks like in the future. In exploring this next step, I have realized that Evergreen's education model fits very well my out-of-the-box thinking, in a controlled environment, which is where I thrive best. Through exploring my own passions, I have been able to develop clear strategies for my future.

My vision for the future has not stopped growing since I first started at Evergreen back in 2018. I have grown and been through a lot in that time; I always came back and accomplish my goals regardless of what life has thrown at me. Evergreen helped me find the strength and developed my skills in a way that only Evergreen can do. I would like to take what I have accomplished so far and build on that—I hope to help provide lasting change in our world.

Through my personal passion and vision, I would like to help run organizations from the top, using a model where everyone has a place, purpose, and opportunity for success. Evergreen has taught me that education goes in a circle where it can continue to grow, not a box that we end up outgrowing. The education that Evergreen provides has given me the tools I need, while developing the tools within myself, and in a way that benefits communities and humanity as a whole.

My next stage in moving forward is finding a program that supports and honors my values, while offering a superior education as only Evergreen can. I have found exponential growth within myself since I started my academic career with Evergreen. I would love nothing more than to build upon my education even more for a brighter future within myself and for our communities.