

### Purpose statement

My journey of working towards a graduate degree in public administration is centered around my life growing up. I was born into a very religious cult that often limited me and my education. It left me really confused, and I was often extremely curious as to how the world worked around me. I decided when I left this group that I would expand myself in ways I never dreamed of and begin to reach for the life I wanted and was choosing.

While I may not have any political degrees, I have taken many classes on politics. I have also taken a lot of information literacy, which is my current favorite subject to talk about besides food policies. I have always been fascinated by the government/policy workings, and I really want to make a change in my community. I have learned so much about why voting is important, and how we can help America before it's too late! I see so much existentialism in my friends every day, and a huge mental health crisis is happening in our youth. This is something I am very passionate about and mentioned in my memo.

My experience with this is a bit unorthodox, but I have had a lot of opportunities to lead in programs I attended in my youth. Through this, I got to see how my voice affected decisions and really participated in the fine detailing of processes for activities for other young girls. I served in these presidential positions enough and did enough service hours (about 120 hours total) that I earned a Young Womanhood's medallion as well as the Honor Bee. During this time, I was also getting a degree in Seminary Studies. I spent four years waking up around 4 AM to attend morning classes of a deep-dive analysis of the bible and other affiliated books. While

these projects and awards may have been a part of this cult, I believe they really brought out aspects of my person that I think would be a great fit for the public administration master's program at Evergreen. I have been able to develop my project management skills, as well as my drive for social change.

The political/public administration classes I have taken at Evergreen are government, Climate borders in the Middle East, information literacy, communicate like a leader, negotiation skills for success, develop mental toughness and resilience, and business ethics. Additionally, I have worked for the local government of Washington in Olympia. I was in the Elections division, certifying signatures on petitions. However, this time in my life I learned a tremendous amount about how the political system in America works. I believe if more people were educated, we could bring some real change in parliament and the judicial system. Recently, I have seen that a law was attempted to be passed in Arizona, banning and heavily criminalizing abortion and birth control. Luckily, the vote was unable to be passed statewide because of 200 votes! I think that number sounds small, but there are 231,988 people registered to vote and a population of 400,024. The number of lives that could have been lost from this heartbreaking law was able to be stopped by such a small number of people, but they knew enough that they needed to fight for this right.

My desire to learn more about public administration comes from my interest in political science, sociology, economics and management. I have a degree in social media marketing as well, I believe this is a 1–2-year technical degree where you run a simulated company with the same predicted algorithms of social media commonly used. I made my “company” quite a lot of money and I had an amazing time learning about the ins and outs of the company workings. I

want to use a cumulation of all my knowledge to help address issues in public institutions, and there are so many new challenges today.

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Evergreen State College is particularly what I want because of its focus on experimental learning, and critical thinking. Evergreen also actively encourages their students to participate in internships that work with school schedules and workloads. This is perfect for my learning style and how I want to learn for my future. I would be excited to meet and collaborate with the other students who share my passion for public change as well! Evergreen has a large focus on social justice and sustainability, The social justice aspect is a subject I want to learn more about through the program. I have been inspired by the social activism of the students at this school, and I believe that I can make myself an ethical and strong leader with Evergreens help.

Many elements of public administration are challenging, but I have learned that collaboration is the key to being successful. So many public administration jobs are based around working in groups and I have learned to love the differences that others bring out of me. It gives me a good opportunity to analyze myself and see where I could have flaws in my thinking. The more I get to work in groups, the more I get to practice these skills and develop myself. People have such a huge variety of experiences and stories to share as well, everyone comes from different backgrounds and ethnicities. I think this will further enhance my learning and I believe promoting diversity has increasing importance daily and I can work at getting people the proper platforms to lead for this activism.

I am dedicated to studying specifically at Evergreen and using my education to promote social justice and address system inequalities. I know we can create a better society together, and I'm excited to learn how to use the tools I must create that. I am confident that the program will give me the knowledge I need to manifest a place where people can be people with rights, no matter what.