

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Statement of Purpose

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I have never felt 100% confident in any public administrator to establish everyone's needs. Sure, it can be difficult to balance different interests and make tough choices that may not please everyone. But ultimately, their goal *should* be to serve the whole public and make the best decisions for the greater good. I am Makayla, bound by an unrelenting passion and driven by a deep sense of purpose, I stand on the precipice of the next step in my academic journey, eager to leap into the vast expanse of graduate studies.

My aim? To immerse myself in a rigorous academic environment and to enhance my skills and contribute to my field in meaningful ways. I think pursuing a masters degree should be a huge dream and accomplishment for anyone. I did not think I would have the opportunity at a younger age, but I am extremely grateful that I can put myself in the right mindset to take this next step to achieve this level of education. But why a masters in public administration specifically you ask? I think this degree goes along with my focus in school; it has been primarily about analyzing people's psychopathology, how to help people with themselves and others, leadership skills, and communication skills. With my bachelor's degree that emphasized psychology coupled with a master's degree in public administration, this will help me pursue a career in the social services field where I can utilize my skills and creativity to further help people and solve problems. Obtaining a masters degree, it will equip me with the knowledge and skills needed to make a real impact in the public sector.

I was raised with a "see a need, fill a need" motto and there seems to be more people that quickly dismiss or avoid issues simply because they don't like confrontation, don't understand or don't feel it's their job; and I am one that wants to see a solution through. Personally, I find those types of administrators to be lazy and inconvenient, and would want to see improvement on their mediocre work. I believe I have strong qualities like being detail-oriented which helps me

maintain high standards, produce quality results, and gain a reputation for being thorough and reliable. I am a strong communicator that effectively expresses ideas, understands others' wants and needs, and resolves conflicts. I am confident in my organizational skills which helps me manage my time effectively, increase my productivity, and reduce my stress of juggling multiple things at once. In my opinion, these are all great qualities that administrators should have when managing in the public sector.

From being perplexed by the mysteries of the universe as a child, to my pursuit of advanced knowledge as an adult, my journey has always been fueled by an insatiable curiosity and a profound love for learning. I would absolutely love to continue my education at Evergreen because I love the interdisciplinary learning style that I experienced in my undergraduate degree and it boosted my love for learning even more. The teachings allow me to creatively think outside the box when discussing simple topics. With this "think outside the box" concept, it encourages my creativity to explore new ideas and perspectives that lead to innovative solutions, improves my problem solving skills to tackle situations from different angles, and enhances my adaptability to unexpected challenges. I recognize that Evergreen has allowed me to embrace the unconventional and to curiously guide my own learning process. Within this school, there is a lot of collaborative work, which surprisingly takes a lot more effort than most think. It shows that students are able to work with others in a group and problem solve while improving their communication and I strongly believe in this kind of learning environment. Personally, I have benefitted from this collaborative work environment because it has given me the ability to have an open mind and allows for further conversations with disagreeing opinions.

Evergreen digs deep into interrelationships and ensures that everyone is equally getting a high level of integrative education. Studying here for my undergraduate degree has brought my

mindset to a more peaceful and intelligent place. There are so many different connections that I have made since my first moments at Evergreen and it has changed me into a better, more colorful person. I already experienced having an amazing cohort here and these connections have a way of making me feel alive by bringing me excitement, comfort, and a sense of fulfillment. While human connections enrich our lives and allow us to grow and learn from one another, I also adore the forested environment that Evergreen is surrounded by. I love nature so much that I took a winter botany class in my undergrad studies which made me feel more connected to the land of Evergreen and more grounded as a human. The trees on campus evoke a sense of peace, almost the feeling of being rejuvenated. The beauty and essence of the forested environment sparks my creativity, for which I have made a true connection with nature.

In my past, I had lots of passion for helping people and that is why I want to further my education; to learn more skills and techniques that will help in this endeavor. I once volunteered as a TA for my high school counseling center and discovered my calling and eagerness for positive change and outcomes. The moment where I felt the most happiness was when I was able to help the counselors with administrative tasks such as organizing student files and paperwork, connecting appointments within students and faculty, contacting community resources for students, transferring students to different classrooms and taking notes during counselor meetings. It felt like a real job and I want to continue to find that feeling of happiness when helping people. I don't want to be that "no" person nor believe I am, but I want to always find a way to make things work no matter the effort or creativity involved. An example where I have positively changed the environment, workspace, and flow of things is right here at Evergreen. I got hired as an employee at the CRC early August 2023, and since then I have contributed several ideas to help reopen the whole facility to the students and community members since the

pandemic. There has been a lot of creative thinking of what would be welcoming to patrons and what they would want or like in a recreation center, but it felt great changing things in a positive way for the community. I was committed by spending long hours helping and changing the operations of the CRC to become fully in function.

I asked myself several times when thinking about applying for graduate school, “what do I plan to do with my degree after graduation?” and the honest answer is that I do not know. Of course I want to help people and be a leader, but achieving this goal at a younger age is what is exciting to me and I know that will benefit me later on in life. At this moment I have not made a definite decision of what my future career will hold, but I plan to gain several additional skills that will help mold it. Even though I have taken several classes that provide me information to use in my field, I wish to create more real-life experiences through my journey of achieving a masters degree. I expect myself to gain the knowledge and skills that I need in order to be a leader in public and social service. I wish to do great community changing things with my degree, but the first step in my academic journey is going to graduate school. I know where I want to go with my future, and I know why I want to take this next step because of my past. I know I can do this because I can now confidently represent Evergreens principles and instruction to better the communities needs.