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Admissions Committee  
Master of Public Administration  
The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW  
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the Master of Public Administration program at The Evergreen State College. While finishing my bachelor's degree I have grown to love and appreciate the unique experience that is Evergreen. From the community to the interdisciplinary approach to learning Evergreen offers an irreplaceable learning experience. There is comfort and acceptance. While attending Evergreen, I have never felt afraid or discouraged to ask questions or participate in the conversation. I have confidence in the faculty, staff, and my fellow students to create an environment that feels safe and comfortable, an atmosphere that fosters learning and growth. I like to think that not only am I learning from others in lectures and seminars, but that they are learning from me as well.

The Evergreen commitment to interdisciplinary studies is of utmost importance to me. Life is interconnected, requiring an interdisciplinary approach to solving complex issues that affect a group or population. To have a deeper understanding of life and the world around you, you need to learn and investigate how and why all the pieces are connected. Nothing in life happens in a vacuum. Approaching issues as if they are singular and unaffected by other aspects will never bring a solution that truly works. I believe understanding and appreciating the intersectionality of life is important in public administration. Our mental health is affected by the food we eat, the environments we live in, the education we receive and doctors we are able or unable to see.

I began my academic journey believing I should pursue psychology; I assumed that I needed to become a psychologist or a licensed mental health counselor to help people and make an impact. Over the last year of my undergraduate degree, I realized I would have a greater effect at the policy level as opposed to the individual level. I want to create change that facilitates a wholistic approach, to improve mental health services for people who struggle.

My educational background and life experiences are extensive. I have taken many different paths that have led me to my decision to pursue public administration. Both my triumphs and failures have only deepened my commitment to social justice and have fueled my desire to work on these issues. Over the years, I have witnessed and been affected personally by public policy or lack thereof. Having struggled with some of these issues myself it is important to me to help others and make it easier, more accessible for others to find the help and support they need.

My passion for influencing public policy and making a positive impact on critical societal issues has led me to pursue this advanced degree. I am confident that The Evergreen State College's MPA program will provide me with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to further my career goals in addressing pressing challenges related to not only mental health, but our healthcare system as a whole.

I am drawn to the field of public administration because it offers a unique opportunity to effect social change through evidence-based policymaking, program evaluation, and innovative solutions. I believe that by pursuing an MPA at Evergreen, I can gain a comprehensive understanding of the public sector, policy analysis, and strategic leadership, which will equip me to drive reform in these crucial areas.

The Evergreen MPA program's reputation for community-based learning, interdisciplinary studies, academic excellence, outstanding faculty, and a diverse community of like-minded individuals makes it my top choice for graduate education. I am excited about the prospect of collaborating with faculty members and engaging with fellow students who share my commitment to effecting meaningful change.

I am extremely excited to continue my education here at Evergreen. I cannot wait to participate in this transformative journey and acquire the knowledge and skills needed to make a real difference in the lives of those affected by the public policies related to mental health here in

Washington and hopefully in America. I am confident that the Evergreen MPA program will provide me with the best platform to achieve my goals in the public administration field.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and learn from the Evergreen community. Please feel free to contact me at

Hailey.morris@evergreen.edu or 360-972-8996 if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Hailey E. Morris