

Admissions Committee,

I am currently working towards my goal of becoming a marine research scientist. I received my Associate in Biology, with honors, from Centralia College in June of 2021. During my studies at Centralia College, I chose specific courses, such as marine biology and oceanography, that would allow me to emphasize my education in marine science. I am working towards my Bachelor's in Science, emphasizing my education in marine science and environmental science as they relate to biology, ecology, and zoology at the Evergreen State College; I am a senior in class standing. The programs I have taken at Evergreen include Vertebrate Zoology (Fall 2021), Marine Environments (Winter & Spring 2022), SOS: Tribal Marine Policy & Sciences (Current), and Undergraduate Research w/ Dr. Yu (Current). Tentative future undergraduate work includes Marine Biodiversity (Winter 2023) and independent studies involving marine science and microscopy (Spring 2023). I plan on continuing my education after completing my bachelor's degree and know a master's degree in Environmental Studies from Evergreen State College would complement my career interest and choice. I am applying for this program to establish a relationship with a college that truly understands the principles and potential of environmental studies and that can help me in my future vocation. In addition, I hope to bring genuine questions and thoughts to the program and am aiming for a satisfactory, novel, thesis. I would like to work in research or academia, in a team, studying deep-sea environments. My current niche interest revolves around deep-sea biology, including a great interest in deep-sea gigantism and bacteria.

I have done extensive college work involving laboratory assignments that have given me experience working with microscopes, titrations, reagents, chemical mixtures, dissections, organism analysis, and, overall, research. I also gained experience working with instruments such as Erlenmeyer flasks, volumetric flasks, graduated cylinders, pipettes, burettes, hot plates, magnetic stirrers, agars, gels, statistical software & attachment probes, and more. My current education has focused on research, learning how to communicate via Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, and oral communication.

While working as an Office Assistant 3 (OA3), for Washington State Parks and Recreation, I conducted daily emails and communications with team members & members of the public, ran daily mail runs to headquarters to pick up mail, notified the team of mail/other items that were available for them, and attended all-staff meetings. I had the responsibility of boxing up and shipping outreach materials to businesses, other departments in our network, and members of the public that made the request for them. I gained clerical experience by creating excel spreadsheets for many different counts and agency records. I also gained experience working as a team by helping in the instruction of the boating programs Paddleboard Safety outreach program. This Office Assistant 3 position showed me the value of networking and teamwork and I believe I can translate this experience to working in a team while pursuing my master's degree.

At Vitamin World I served as an assistant manager where I exercised superior customer service while using decision-making to sell customers the most impactful products to benefit their lifestyle goals. This service included aiding in-person and over the phone regarding inquiries, complaints, or problems. I gained communication skills by interpreting and explaining the supplemental guide and aspects of supplements to a diverse community, including surpassing the language barrier of my international customers. I found I was able to calm irate customers by explaining situations; here I realized that most individuals are upset when they do not comprehend, therefore, I found that communicating and explaining things thoroughly kept me from having upset clients. I worked toward daily corporate assigned and personal goals. I used time management and adaptability to balance leading the store team and operations. Vitamin World showed me the importance of clear communication, time-management, and tested my ability to remain calm under pressure; attributes I believe can correlate well while participating in this program.

I will bring many attributes, as an individual, to this program and my research. I understand how to be flexible and versatile, I had to while working with many clients while personal training. Personal training requires the ability to assess situations, identify problems, and be innovative when solving those problems to assist the client with their health and fitness goals successfully. I have many years of experience developing and abiding by schedules, balancing priorities, and managing time from working in retail environments. Retail has also set the bar for following quality standards and specifications. I worked as a call-center representative successfully, which required well-developed communication skills, the ability to remain calm under pressure, and empathy. It also required being able to work independently and with minimal supervision. The numerous amounts of science-related lab courses I have taken at Centralia College and Evergreen State College have given me the experience necessary to observe and record data, as well as report my findings in writing and orally. I am applying for this program because I believe in the Evergreen State College as a leading institution in Environmental Studies, I will bring positive qualities as a student and peer, I will develop and meet, with great satisfaction, a novel thesis, and will continue promoting Evergreen State College and its style of learning, teaching, and education. I am excited to work with staff and students alike, build relationships and networks, and learn the mysteries of the deep sea. I am certain that Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies program is the right program for me to accomplish these goals.

Thank you,

Jordan Elie