

Masters of Environmental Studies Statement of Purpose

Evergreen has been a place for me to find myself, and I am right in the middle of that journey. When I went into college I wanted a place where I could learn about who I am. This has been done this via sports, and being in what I would call a fairly introverted community here at The Evergreen State College. I have grown in so many ways since I have joined this community and for my education and life in general. It is ideal for me to continue my education here at TESC.

One of the main benefits from me choosing Evergreen has been the structure of the school here. I am someone that makes decisions very late, and struggles to commit myself to a major because my mindset is that I am changing so frequently that it is difficult to make decisions for my future. TESC school has taken that worry and made it into a good thing, it has done this by allowing me to take any classes I want (for the most part) in order to get my degree, instead of pigeon holing me into one major that I would have to stick with. From what I understand, this masters program is also very open ended in terms of letting students choose their path as compared to other colleges/universities.

I am currently employed at TESC CRC. I have enjoyed working there as it keeps me within the athletic community, and lets me meet new people in my community. It is also a job I take great pride in, this is because I use many of the spaces as an athlete, so I feel a responsibility to keep the place clean, and do my space checks on the facility to make sure everyone is accounted for. Another benefit of on campus employment is that I do not have to take the bus to work, something I very much appreciate.

The Evergreen State College community has been very important for me as well from multiple perspectives. For learning my tendencies through social and athletic experiences. One of the ways in which this community has been good for me to learn myself, is that it has

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allowed me to come up with the “two year rule” which basically means that at the end of the second year of a community, I will start to make meaningful connections. Having awareness that I just need time to connect with those around me and I am not wrong or bad for taking that time has been hugely important. One of the reasons that I take so long to get into a community, is that I am neurodivergent (diagnosed with ADHD) so it takes me a long time to develop trust enough that I can stop masking around people. I also have been part of both the track, and Mens soccer teams at Evergreen as well. Track in particular has been so important for my personal development. I started the season as a long jumper. Where I jumped a lower than average long jumper, never making improvements, dealing with injury, but getting worse. As I was walking away from our second to last meet, triple jump was scheduled after. As I turned around I saw someone get a conference qualifying mark and I turned to my partner who is also on the track team, and I said “I could do that literally right now” that week, I told my coach to try the triple jump and he said something along the lines of, we can try it next year but it is too late and you should just finish the season doing long jump, I said, please let me try it and if I suck we can never even mention it. As I started triple jumping I quickly realized that my warmups for triple jump were relatively as good or better than my best long jump. So I practiced for a week, and competed exclusively in triple jump on the weekend, competing against people that have done triple jump for 10-15 years. I jumped a conference qualifying mark. The next week we went up to the conference meet. I jumped a 12.83 M (42.1 ft) triple jump, this gained evergreen their first men's track points (7th place/2 points) since 2019. For an aspect of the community (athletics) to teach me how to advocate for myself/persevere and be patient through injury/trust myself despite non ideal results, and then at the end of it, have something to show for it that benefits the institution that put so much trust in me in the first place was amazing, and I wouldn't change the experience for the

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world. I am planning to do track next year. I will try to be a captain and I will keep listening to my coaches and teammates about how to be the best version of myself.

With all of these factors it only makes sense for me and my life to continue onto grad school.

I can think of no better place to be, or community to be part of and would not change evergreen for anything. I am applying to the MES program because I know it will help me continue on my journey of self discovery across many aspects of life. The Masters of Environmental Science will be a safe space to spread my wings, and it will allow me to develop into the individual academic I want to become, while being in a community that I love.