

I have multiple reasons why I wish to pursue a degree in environmental studies; the most important being that I want to understand how the environment works as a whole. Throughout my academic career I have only gotten bits and pieces of the entire picture. For example, in my herpetology course I only learned about favorable locations that certain reptiles and amphibians like to inhabit. In my botany classes I was taught the growth pattern of a few select plants, as well as their requirements to thrive. The closest I got to capturing the complete idea was in my ecology class; this is where I began to see how different aspects of biology fit together like pieces of a puzzle. My hope is that this program will fill out any areas that might have been overlooked in my schooling so far.

The next reason is that I want to get more hands-on experience in this field. I have done my best to keep my work rooted in the world of plants. I have had two nursery positions over the course of the last two years. At my first location I learned a wealth of useful information, such as different types of California native plants and their requirements to thrive, as well as how to identify different types of pests and diseases along with methods to deal with both. In my current position I am learning the different environmental ranges needed to promote healthy growth in a variety of plants. These ranges include soil moisture levels, light intensity, and temperature. The job I was most passionate about, was when I worked at a botanical garden. This allowed me to interact with nature in essentially, a controlled environment. I was able to identify different types of reptiles and amphibians, as well as differentiate plants native to a temperate rainforest from invasive plants that could have harmed the ecosystem. My hope is that Evergreen will put me in more positions like this one that allow me to get more hands-on learning experience.

The final reason I would like to be in this program is that I eventually want to be a professor in a program like this one. When I was younger a professor of mine convinced me to change my major from mechanics to biology, and I could not be happier for it. I now no longer dread going to school. Instead, I am excited to see what each new class brings me. Ever since then I wanted to be the professor that inspires his students to chase their dreams, or at the very least the teacher who helps them understand a topic that seemed out of reach. Therefore, I have tried to put myself in teaching positions as much as possible. I spent many hours in my dance clubs teaching other members the

steps to whichever dance they were having trouble with. I also gave a few public lectures about different filming techniques used in movies throughout the decades. More recently I worked at an organization called Cal-SOAP that allows college students to tutor at local high schools. I helped my students with everything from cancer identification to guitar repair. I mostly assisted in math classes, helping students stay on track with the rest of the class. If possible, I want to get more experience teaching others or eventually, work within your program to help other students.