

## Statement of Purpose

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Originally, I started my undergraduate at Evergreen back in 2019 with the intent of getting a degree and filling prerequisites for medical school. I began Evergreen as a transfer student from South Puget Sound Community College where I did running start. During my time at Evergreen, this changed. I want to pursue a graduate degree in environmental studies, because I fell in love with the sciences while getting my Bachelors of Science in Biology from Evergreen.

In my second year at Evergreen, I started in a program called *Integrated Natural Sciences* which brought together biology and chemistry. This is where I first experienced field work, I had regular assignments that brought me out into the field and collecting data, such as on plants and various other components of the natural world. A memorable experience was a group project where we went into the field and found water ways in search of fern species.

After this year, I stepped into a program called *Environmental Biology and Chemistry*. This program continued with field work, such as soil and water collection; while connecting topics from organic chemistry and microbiology to the real world. A specific experience was going to a local creek, McLane creek, and getting into the water to collect measurements to determine the discharge, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, and temperature of the creek. Another experience was a 5-week project to characterize microorganisms in soil through phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) analysis. This program heavily integrated chemistry and biology with the environment; touching on environmental pollution as well as the preservation of natural resources.

Along with these programs I was also part of clubs at Evergreen, I was involved in mushroom and herbal medicine club. Within these clubs I was getting outdoors and learning about the natural resources and the benefits they provide.

These two main programs along with various other science courses and clubs led me to a deep interest in how the earth and the natural aspects of it interact all in one great system.

I have found my passion in science and further deepened my interest in the natural world during my time as an undergraduate; as well as have found my path of working in environmental sciences. These programs and experiences during my time in undergraduate studies have influenced me to seek a graduate degree in environmental studies where I can continue.

Not only does science bring me joy, but I feel a sense of duty to preserve the natural beauty of this planet, so that future generations have the opportunity to experience and fall in love with the natural world, as I have had the privilege to do. To hear about the current state of the environment, such as things pertaining to climate change, this deeply saddens me to be hearing about how much humans have negatively impacted our natural world. I hope to further my education in environmental studies to join the people that are working towards a healthy planet in hopes to benefit this beautiful earth one day.

