

Statement of Interest

Environmental studies is a broad subject, with many aspects and different disciplines. Maybe that's why I have felt so drawn to it; as a student, I have always been interested in a variety of different things, and my undergraduate career primarily was spent dabbling in various areas to see what clicked. Many of these subjects were interesting but not ultimately the perfect fit. However, with every element that resonated, I always found it traced back to studying the environment. Class subjects including geology, environmental policy, oceanography, climate change, and geographical information systems all struck a chord with me. So, when I connected these dots and made the decision to pursue this career, imagine my dismay when I realized that a year and a half of undergraduate study would not be enough to complete a second major. Not that I didn't make the attempt, but making the two to three hour round trip to campus every day during the summer to squeeze in extra credits simply didn't leave enough time to study adequately. But the fire was lit, and so I began to look for alternatives. After searching for post grad opportunities including certification programs, I was tipped off to Evergreen's program by a friend who is enrolled in the environmental studies course as an undergrad. After researching the program, it seemed to have great potential to explore all my interests, hone in on what subjects are the most important to me, and pursue a career that I felt would be truly fulfilling and meaningful.

That feeling of a fulfilling experience is perhaps what I'm chasing by pursuing this application; there are careers out there that are more lucrative, offer more freedom, or are easier to pursue than those related to this program. But the contributions that I could make, the actions in these career paths that directly impact our lives, the wildlife around us, and the environment we live in, cannot be replicated or imitated. That feeling of being able to make a real difference, in a meaningful career that helps others and improves our environment even in small ways, especially when it has a direct or local impact, is so enriching and is fuel in and of itself for me to pursue a master's degree and any career opportunities that would follow. This is also what drove me to get involved in environmental efforts and action during my undergraduate studies. As the co-president of my school's art club, another unrelated interest of mine, I helped organize several collaborations with WashPIRG, including a student gallery for earth day and fundraisers. I also attended meetings with the UW GeoDat society, a student research and social organization, to get a better understanding of the work being done by some

My motivation is only fueled further by the state of the world right now; growing up as climate change and environmental issues became more and more well known and frequently spoken about, they were a looming source of anxiety for me, a specter that I could not shake. Learning about these issues, understanding them and what was being done to combat them, became the best defense. It is my hope that through this program, I can turn this defense into an offense, a force for improvement for our environment and in our system.