

Statement of Purpose

A graduate degree in Environmental Studies is my academic goal, as I aspire to deepen my understanding of how to enhance our environment. I have a longstanding curiosity about the human-environment intersectionality and a desire to explore ways to mitigate its negative impacts. I believe that this program will equip me with the skills and knowledge to communicate, teach, and research effective solutions for environmental challenges.

I am currently a senior at the University of Oregon, majoring in General Social Science with a minor in Environmental Studies. I expect to graduate this summer and pursue further education in this field. Throughout my undergraduate studies, I have taken various courses that cover diverse aspects of geography, anthropology, and environmental studies. Many of my geography courses have focused on the human influence on our environment. For example, in geography we examined water policy and rights from different perspectives. This course heightened my interest in water issues and the urgency of finding sustainable solutions. It also piqued my curiosity about hydrology and the effects of dams on local ecosystems. My anthropology courses have made me aware of how humans are both affecting and affected by pesticides. We also studied the harms of pesticides on our crops and the people who harvest them.

In addition to the courses mentioned above, I have also explored various topics related to environmental studies in other disciplines. Some of these topics include public health issues, food systems, and queer ecology. In my course on water and public health, I learned about sanitation systems and how they can reduce the environmental impact of human waste. In food studies, I analyzed the impact of food waste on the environment and the role that food plays in shaping our societies. In my course on queer ecologies, I learned about the history of queer movements and how the environment influenced the self-expression of the queer communities.

These courses have broadened my perspective and enhanced my critical thinking skills. They motivated me to seek more opportunities to apply my knowledge and skills in real-world settings. One such opportunity was my involvement in the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) program, where I worked on the coalition of Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) in the summer of 2023. This program allowed me to work with other college students and learn different ways to make a political impact. At the end of the summer, we sent letters to our local politicians to urge them to support RAWA. I was fortunate enough to meet with a team member of Representative Adam Smith of Washington and advocate for RAWA and his party's continued support. This experience gave me insight into how to lobby bills in state government and how to communicate political issues to various audiences.

An opportunity that I am looking forward to participating in this spring is a study abroad program in New Zealand. This program will enable me to take part in local and nationwide conservation and restoration projects. I will play a role in animal reintroduction to certain areas of New Zealand and learn about invasive species management. These skills will help me gain a more hands-on experience with education, aligning with Evergreen's educational philosophy.