Petition
Statement of Petition for MES Prerequisites

The military, and Army in particular, is adept at providing service members with the opportunity and reality of learning new skills which can range across a variety of subjects, regardless of Military Occupational Specialty. I served ten years as a Human Intelligence Collector, for example, but through the course of service I can confidently say that I built sufficient knowledge and experience for at least entry level jobs in firefighting, law enforcement, vehicle maintenance, commercial driving, and accounting. The military, and Army in particular, is, however, not adept at providing service members with credentials or credit that validates the wealth and range of experience we obtain. I suppose even while serving I ended up being a lifelong learner as I attended the Defense Language Institute on two occasions to not only learn two languages but earn two associates degrees in addition to earning a degree in Intelligence Studies through the natural course of training and additional courses. But even these three additional associates degrees go a short distance to show everything I learned and experienced. Over the course of these last ten years, I have not completed additional Social Science, Natural Science or Statistics courses and my completion of these prerequisites' dates back well beyond five years. But I am very confident in my experience and capability as well as my capacity to learn and retain new knowledge and skills.

I last completed a Social Science class at Rice University where I majored in History but nearly completed sufficient credits to also have additional majors in Classical Civilizations, and Religious Studies. While I have not formally attended additional Social Science courses since then, I have learned more about other cultures through the Army than I did in college as I have experienced these other cultures and parts of the world. I have always made a point to prioritize the Humanity to Human Intelligence Collection as it is key to understand people who may be different from you to successfully work with them. The clearest example of my ability to apply my education and knowledge to Social Sciences came during my only deployment to Afghanistan which lasted 12 months. Prior to deploying I had spent over a year and a half training in Iraqi Arabic. This ended up being inconsequential to my assignments and expectations. As I prepared to deploy to Afghanistan, I spent months reading books on the history and culture of Afghanistan from the Macedonian excursions into the area to modern times. Upon arriving in Afghanistan, I did my best to adapt my Arabic skills to the region. Though very few Afghans speak Arabic, mostly religious scholars and a different dialect at that, and the primary native languages of Pashto and Dari are very different from Arabic, the alphabet is nearly identical and there are some cognates. This gave me a natural leg up and I quickly set about learning conversational Pashto and Dari. By the time I left, I was able to have some basic conversations and understood key words during meetings with Afghan nationals.

As for Natural Sciences, again I have not formally taken a class since undergraduate studies over ten years ago, but I completed a significant amount of study in these fields as well out of a lifelong interest in the natural world. I would consider myself something of an amateur herpetologist and an amateur ichthyologist. This largely stems from fishing being my preferred hobby, but I am generally familiar with a wide range of flora and fauna beyond gamefish to the extent that, while I may not be able to recognize all species of wildlife, I can make some fair guesses at animal behavior based on morphology and habitat. I have no doubt that I would be entering a Masters in Environmental Studies with a more than average familiarity with Natural Sciences.

Regarding statistics, I plan to have the requirements completed prior to beginning the MES program at Evergreen State College and have spoken with Dr. LeRoy to ensure that I am able to do so.