

Statement of Purpose

As an advocate for sustainability and environmentalism, my motivation to pursue the Master of Environmental Studies program here at the Evergreen State College is an academic, professional, and personal commitment to furthering conservation efforts. I was originally drawn to Evergreen for its interdisciplinary approach that focuses on practical learning and fosters an environment for collaborative work for my bachelor's degree. My bachelor's of science degree from Evergreen provides me with a strong understanding of interdisciplinary work in natural science that has prepared me for rigorous work and individual research in the Master of Environmental Studies program. As a current employee of the Puget Sound Estuarium, this degree will also aid my career in environmental education and outreach.

I would like to get my degree at Evergreen to further build upon my environmental science education and get more experience doing individual research. With this added experience I would be able to explore my passion for conservation and further my career. My areas of interest are broad and I would like to be prepared for any opportunity that may arise. My main interest is drawn to either doing molecular environmental biology or continuing to pursue environmental education and outreach. In either case, my goal is to be a career environmental scientist that has a wide range of knowledge to better contribute research with a well rounded approach to environmental issues. I would like for Evergreen to aid this effort and be my stepping stone into the environmental science industry and establish connections for my future education and career.

I am currently volunteering for the Puget Sound Estuarium doing various roles. I primarily do interpreting for the aquarium section and rotating exhibits, giving environmental education to people of all backgrounds and ages using the live animals, preserved specimens, and posters to help better connect our community to the environment. I also am one of the volunteers that helps maintain the aquarium tanks and care for the animals outside of business hours independently. I am also a contract educator for the estuarium's K-12 programs around Thruston and Mason county to get kids interested in the environment and learn about the world around them. I have also worked as a summer camp counselor in a remote camp near Snohomish, WA that gave me a great appreciation for the environment and outdoors, especially here in Washington.

In 2020 I obtained my Associates of Arts from South Puget Sound Community College while concurrently completing my highschool diploma through the Running Start program. At SPSCC I took chemistry and biology electives to help better prepare me for my bachelors of science and also completed humanities covering american history and government. During this time I also performed for Olympia High School's orchestra.

After graduating from SPSCC and highschool in 2020, I transferred to Evergreen where I began work on my Bachelor's of Science. My first year at Evergreen was fully online integrated natural sciences. I gained a more integrated and grounded education around biology, chemistry, and math. While being limited online for the first two quarters, I still got some independent field work in this first year. I did not get the in-person chemistry lab for most of the year, but later made up for it with upper-division organic chemistry labs later on. In my second year at Evergreen I was unable to take molecule to organism, but got most of the same credits through two other programs. I took two quarters of environmental biology and chemistry, and then one quarter of developmental and molecular biology.

These courses were rigorous and greatly prepared me for any lab work I will do in my masters thesis and future career. Finally, my last two quarters at Evergreen were spent focusing on different field science options. I got an education in fungal and marine sciences, gaining significant interest in marine science. Overall, I have acquired a well-rounded perspective of various environmental science topics and their intersections. This past knowledge and experience combined with a Master of Environmental Studies would help me think critically and make well-informed decisions for my future research and career.