

Master of Environmental Studies Program Application

All fields with an * are required.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

There are questions on the application for admissions that Evergreen is required to ask, but your answers are optional. The data collected from these questions will be used to support Washington state and federal programs to address the needs of college students.

Request disability accommodation through [Access Services](#) to assist in the application process or call at (360) 867-6348 or (360) 867-6834 (TTY).

Remember these key pieces of your application:

1. Read and acknowledge the Signature Page Agreement.
2. Electronically sign and date your application.
3. Letter of Recommendation requests are sent to the recommenders you list in your application automatically after saving their contact information. Please be sure to have emailed your recommenders with your request for a letter prior to adding their contact information into your application portal so that they are aware they will be contacted by the application system.
4. If you think you qualify for an [application fee waiver, please review this information](#) before submitting your application. If you believe you are eligible for an application fee waiver, make your selection on the Application Fee and Waiver Options tab. All requests must be approved.
5. AFTER clicking "Submit" on your application, you will be taken to CashNet to pay the non-refundable \$50 application fee if you have not requested a fee waiver.

Contact the [Graduate Admissions office](#) if you have questions.

Transcript Instructions

Transcripts are required from the institution where you earned your bachelors degree. You are responsible for requesting official transcripts for your application packet to be considered complete and reviewed by the MES Program at Evergreen. Please contact your undergraduate institution and request official transcripts be sent to the Graduate Admissions Office. If you have questions, please contact the Graduate Admissions Office at (360) 867-6856 or [via email](#).

Mail to:

Admissions, Attn: MES

Evans 1200

The Evergreen State College

2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW

Olympia, WA 98505

For additional information review the "Preparing your application" section of the [How to Apply MES page](#).

All fields with an * are required.

You can see detailed information about application requirements for an Evergreen Master of Environmental Studies program on the [How to Apply - MES page](#).

Your application is only considered complete when we receive all of your application materials. Your materials must include:

1. Online application
2. Resume
3. Statement of Purpose
4. Academic Writing Sample or GRE scores
5. Official transcript from institution where you earned your bachelor's degree
6. Three Letters of Recommendation
7. Non-refundable application fee or [approved fee waiver](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER

You must request an official transcript from your bachelor's degree granting undergraduate institution.

You must provide proof of a bachelor's degree

Your official transcript must show proof of an awarded bachelor's degree.

You may be admitted provisionally pending completion of your bachelor's degree, but you will be ineligible for financial aid until your official transcript with your conferred bachelor degree is received.

All transcripts should be emailed to [Graduate Admissions](#) from the degree granting institution. Transcripts may also be mailed in an official sealed envelope from the attended institution.

Mail to:

Admissions, Attn: MES
Evans 1200
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW
Olympia, WA 98505

All fields with an * are required.

We will need your full legal name in the fields below.

* First or given name

Ajaleigh

Chosen first name

Aja

Middle name or initial

B

* Last or family name

Irons

Suffix

If your legal last, family, or first name has been changed, provide that information in the fields below. This information may assist in identifying supporting documents we have received.

Former first name

Former last or family name

Additional former first name

Additional former last or family name

* Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

12/31/1994

[mm/dd/yyyy]

* Legally assigned sex (Federal and Washington State agencies require Evergreen to collect and report information about the legally assigned sexual identity of applicants and students. There are only three categories provided by these external agencies: female and male for all states and X for WA and specific states.)

Female

I identify my gender as (if not listed)

Personal Email (View only field)

ajaleigh.irons@gmail.com

If your email address has changed, provide an update in this field.

ajaleigh.irons@gmail.com

If you have questions regarding your email address, contact [Graduate Admissions](#) .

* Mobile Number

2534955224

* I agree to receive text messages (Charges may apply depending on carrier and phone plan.)

Yes

Phone Number

Providing your Social Security Number (SSN) on this application is optional and will not play a role in the College's admission decision.

Providing your SSN will assist in the processing of your federal financial aid and supporting educational research, which, in some instances, require a SSN or Tax Identification Number (TIN). Releasing student information will be in accordance with all appropriate state and federal laws. Your SSN is not used as your primary student identification at Evergreen.

Social Security Number (provide numbers only)

539315890

If you have questions about Veterans or active duty benefits, please contact the Evergreen [Veterans Affairs Office](#) .

Military Active Duty

No

Months of Active Duty

Military Veteran

No

Separation Date (mm/yyyy)

[mm/yyyy]

International and Visa Information

* Will you require a student F-1 visa to study at Evergreen or have applied for US residency or refugee status?

No

Evergreen Employment Information

Department or Division

Position Title

Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

[mm/dd/yyyy]

All fields with an * are required.

Mailing Address

* Are you a resident of Washington State?

Yes

* Number, street name, apt

603 28th Ave SE

Street address line 2 (if needed)

* City

Puyallup

* State or Province (Use Intl No State if not US or Canada.)

WA

* Zip Code (International addresses use 000)

98374

Check box below if different permanent address

[]

Washington county where you currently live

Pierce

Provide the date you began living in Washington State if it is less than 12 consecutive months prior to the start of the quarter. Please email the [Graduate Admissions office](#) if you have questions.

I moved to Washington State on (format as mm/yyyy)

[mm/yyyy]

All fields with an * are required.

Racial and Ethnicity Questions

Evergreen State College is required to ask all applicants to provide a response in the next two questions. Your response to these questions is optional. Regardless of your response to the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx origin question, please consider completing the heritage identity question. This information is not used to make an admissions decision.

I am of Hispanic or Latino origin

No

Instructions for selecting more than one value in multi-select fields on this page.

With a keyboard, hold control (PC) or command (MAC) to select multiple items from the list.

With touch, tap on the form field to open the chooser and then tap to select each item that applies.

Please select one or more that best identify your heritage

Instructions for selecting more than one value in multi-select fields on this page.

With a keyboard, hold control (PC) or command (MAC) to select multiple items from the list.

With touch, tap on the form field to open the chooser and then tap to select each item that applies.

I describe my racial identity as (select one or more)

Asian;Black or African American;White

Instructions for selecting more than one value in multi-select fields on this page.

With a keyboard, hold control (PC) or command (MAC) to select multiple items from the list.

With touch, tap on the form field to open the chooser and then tap to select each item that applies.

Asian Heritage

Japanese

Other (not listed)

All fields with an * are required.

I first heard about the MES Program from

Event or Fair

Not listed, how did you hear about MES?

Date I first heard about the MES Program (mm/dd/yyyy)

11/2024

[mm/yyyy]

I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer

[]

I am an AmeriCorps member or alumni

☒

I am a McNair Scholar

☐

I have previously applied at Evergreen

No

Most recent program applied to and year of application (example: MES, 2011)

I have previously attended Evergreen

No

Date, or dates, of attendance at Evergreen (example: Fall 2009, Fall 2013)

My Evergreen ID number was (if known)

All fields with an * are required.

List the institution that granted your bachelor's degree. Request an official transcript be sent to the Evergreen Graduate Admissions office.

Evergreen students and alumni, you are responsible for requesting an official copy of your Evergreen transcript to be sent to the Graduate Admissions Office. See more about this requirement on the [MES How to Apply page](#).

Search Hint: Type the primary name of the school (Santa Cruz) without University, College, or Community College (abbreviations vary). The school list is sorted alphabetically by school name with the city, state listed at the end. Once the list appears, locate your institution and click to select. If school is not listed, use SCHOOL NOT FOUND - UNKNOWN as the value.

* Institution Name

Western Washington University

Check below if this is your most recently attended school

☒

If you did not find your institution in the list, please provide the following information.

Institution Name

Institution City, State, Country

* Start date (MM/DD/YYYY) (If you only remember the month and year, enter the first day of the month)

09/01/2013

[mm/dd/yyyy]

* End date (MM/DD/YYYY) (If you only remember the month and year, enter the first day of the month)

06/01/2018

[mm/dd/yyyy]

List additional years if you had breaks in your attendance at this institution

* Degree earned from this institution. Select "None" if you did not receive a degree.

Bachelor's of Arts (BA)

1st degree date earned (mm/yyyy)

6/2018

[mm/yyyy]

College Major

Music

Additional degree earned from this institution

Additional degree date earned (mm/yyyy)

[mm/yyyy]

2nd College Major

All fields with an * are required.

PREREQUISITES COURSEWORK

For more guidance, read through our [MES Prerequisites under Admissions Requirements section](#) .

MES requires that you have completed a minimum of 4 quarter credits or 3 semester credits of the following disciplines within the last 5 years (after Fall 2020):

Social Science (economics, sociology, geography, anthropology, etc.)

Natural science (biology, ecology, physical geography, etc.)

Statistics (course content must include elementary descriptive and inferential statistics, including basic probability, binomial and/or normal distributions, null hypothesis testing and p-values, and some specific statistical tests such as t-test, chi-square test, regression)

University or college coursework may be lower or upper division, but MES also accepts CLEP test credits and ECTS credits for the fulfillment of the prerequisite requirements. Enter information in the fields below pertaining to coursework or tests taken within the past five (5) years which fulfills the prerequisite requirements.

Transcripts with the completed prerequisites must be submitted to the Graduate Admissions office separately if the transcript from the institution where you earned your bachelor's degree does not include the prerequisite coursework.

If you do not have classes on your transcripts that meet these requirements:

You must:

1) Add "Petition" or "In Progress" in the Course Title field if you plan to either petition that a prerequisite be waived based on your previous professional and/or academic experience or, you plan to complete the required course before beginning the MES program.

2) On the Application Attachments page of this application, please add an attachment with either a short statement of petition, or a short statement explaining your plan to meet the prerequisite requirements through additional coursework.

Evergreen Students and alumni please use: Program Name for Course Title and the name of the Relevant Credit Earned within the program for the Course Number.

Social Science

College or University

Pierce Community College

Indicate how credits were earned

Quarter

* Course Title
Petition

Course Number
397B, 242, 335, 481

Term & Year Completed
Spring, 2017

Credits Earned
20

Natural Science

College or University
Pierce Community College

Indicate how credits were earned

* Course Title
In Process

Course Number
160

Term & Year Completed
Summer, 2025

Credits Earned
5

Statistics

College or University
Pierce Community College

Indicate how credits were earned

* Course Title
In Process

Course Number
146

Term & Year Completed
Summer, 2025

Credits Earned
5

All fields with an * are required.

Request three letters of recommendation from people who can provide evidence of your ability to do excellent graduate-level work in the following areas:

1. Written and verbal communication
2. Critical reasoning
3. Data interpretation and quantitative analysis

If you have graduated from college within the last five years, at least one of your references must be from a faculty

member (we strongly recommend this for all applicants). Other potential recommenders are:

1. Supervisors
2. Employers
3. Mentors
4. Colleagues – only 1 recommender may be allowed from a peer professional relationship

Please note: references from family and friends are not appropriate for this application.

Recommendation - General

* Recommender First Name

Scott

* Recommender Last Name

Vlasak

Recommender Title

Senior Project Manager

Recommender Institution or Organization

American Conservation Experience

* Recommender Email

sscottvlasak@usaconservation.org

Recommender Phone (XXX xxxxxxx format)

6106213819

NOTE: Many faculty may choose not to provide students with copies of the letters they have written on their behalf. Your letter writers will be notified about your selection in the question below. Some faculty may not write a letter for you if you select "I do not waive my right to review this recommendation".

* I waive my access to review this letter of recommendation.

I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation - General

* Recommender First Name

Grace

* Recommender Last Name

Pierstorff

Recommender Title

Education Program Coordinator

Recommender Institution or Organization

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

* Recommender Email

GPierstorff@n-sea.org

Recommender Phone (XXX xxxxxxx format)

(360) 715-0283

NOTE: Many faculty may choose not to provide students with copies of the letters they have written on their behalf. Your letter writers will be notified about your selection in the question below. Some faculty may not write a letter for you if you select "I do not waive my

right to review this recommendation".

* I waive my access to review this letter of recommendation.
I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation - General

* Recommender First Name

Patrick

* Recommender Last Name

Sutherin

Recommender Title

Project Manager

Recommender Institution or Organization

American Conservation Experience

* Recommender Email

psutherin@usaconservation.org

Recommender Phone (XXX xxxxxxx format)

4105075967

NOTE: Many faculty may choose not to provide students with copies of the letters they have written on their behalf. Your letter writers will be notified about your selection in the question below. Some faculty may not write a letter for you if you select "I do not waive my right to review this recommendation".

* I waive my access to review this letter of recommendation.
I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Waiving your rights to view recommendation letters means that you are choosing not to review the letters submitted on your behalf during the application process . [Under FERPA](#) , after enrollment at Evergreen you may be allowed to review any letters of recommendation that have been added to your permanent file.

All fields with an * are required.

Please use this section to attach your Statement of Purpose, Resume, and Analytical Essay. See more guidelines for completing these pieces of your application on the [MES How to Apply page](#) .

Note: Letters of Recommendation are to be sent from the recommender and not attached here.

ALL ATTACHMENTS should be uploaded on the " APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS " below.

Your document title must include: your name, graduate program, and type of document (example: SusanBloomMESresume). Preferred formats: WORD OR PDF

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

RESUME

Include relevant employment, volunteer experience, education, specific training, public and community service, and other activities. Format your resume as you would if applying to a job.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In 500-1000 words, tell the admissions committee why you want to pursue a graduate degree in environmental studies. Provide detail of your experiences in education, employment and public or community work. Explain how each influenced you to seek a graduate degree in environmental studies.

ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE OR GRE SCORES

You may choose to submit either GRE Scores or the Academic Writing Sample for the final application requirement. For those interested in submitting the Academic Writing Sample, please follow the directions for the Academic Writing Sample below and submit your essay as an attachment in this section of the application. If you wish to submit your GRE Scores, please follow directions in the GRE Scores section.

The academic writing sample requirement is your opportunity to show your writing skills, and ability to synthesize literature.

Academic Writing Sample:

- Must be completed individually (no group project writing, no co-authors)
- Synthesis of information from various sources (including at least three academic journal articles or academic books, along with additional sources)
- Subject of the writing can be on any topic
- Cite evidence in parentheses throughout the text
- No use of artificial intelligence (AI) or plagiarism
- 5-10 pages (double-spaced)
- 5-10 citations in a References section

The committee will evaluate your writing based on the following criteria:

- Clarity and organization of writing
- Lack of grammatical errors and sentence fragments
- Strong sentence and paragraph structure
- Ability to synthesize academic literature and evidence
- Demonstrated use of in-text citations and a bibliography

You may use work that you have completed previously, as long as your final document meets the requirements for the academic writing sample. Please note, your essay should be a demonstration of individual work, group or team-based projects and essays will not be accepted.

For some good examples of academic writing samples, see the links to essays written by recent MES students on the [MES How to Apply page](#).

GRE SCORES

You may submit GRE Scores that are up to 5 years old from the date you plan to submit your application. For example, if you took the GRE on September 19, 2020, you may access and submit your scores from ETS until September 18, 2025.

If you have not yet taken the GRE, you will need to ensure that you take the test in time for your scores to be submitted to the Graduate Admissions office by the application deadline you are applying for. It takes ETS 10-15 working days from your test date to send your scores to your college(s) of interest. If, for example, you would like to meet the First Round Application deadline of December 31, 2024, you will need to have taken the GRE by December 14, 2024, to ensure that your scores are received in time. Your GRE test fee includes 4 free score reports to be sent to colleges of your choosing, you can request to have ETS send your scores to Graduate Admissions at Evergreen via email to graduateadmissions@evergreen.edu or mail to:

Admissions, Attn: MES

Evans 1200
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway, NW
Olympia, WA 98505

OPTIONAL ATTACHMENT(S)

PREREQUISITE INFORMATION

Add your petition to waive prerequisite requirements based on previous academic or professional experience.

or

Add a short statement explaining your plan for meeting prerequisite requirements before starting the MES program.

Upload your application attachments below.

SAVE after uploading each document.

All fields with an * are required.

Agreement

In signing this form, I acknowledge that failure to disclose and submit the official transcript from the institution conferring my bachelor's degree and failure to disclose and submit complete and accurate information may result in the denial of admission or subsequent dismissal from The Evergreen State College. I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the statements I have made in this application are complete and true.

I understand that my application is incomplete without the acknowledgment below and my electronic signature.

* By checking the box below, I acknowledge I have read and understand the statement above. (The signature fields will appear once checked.)

☒ [X]

The Equal Opportunity Policy of The Evergreen State College expressly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, marital status, age, disability, pregnancy, use of a trained service animal, veteran status or citizenship status.

Signature

Please type your name as it appears on your application.

* Signature of Applicant

Ajaleigh Irons

* Date Signed (mm/dd/yyyy)

12/28/2024

[mm/dd/yyyy]

All fields with an * are required.

Required Fields Review List (completed = Check Mark)

This page will display any requirements that may be required as you complete the application.

The Evergreen State College
Master of Environmental Studies
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia , Washington 98505
(360) 867-6856

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