

To whom it may concern,

I am interested in pursuing a Master of Environment Studies at Evergreen State College. My goal in pursuing a Master of Environment Studies is to deepen my education while gaining hands-on experience in environmental science. I have always had a strong interest in marine biology and freshwater ecology for many years. These fields fascinate me because many aquatic ecosystems help form the foundation of many food webs and form complex interactions between living organisms and their environments. In addition to my scientific interests, I am passionate about conservation efforts, because preventing habitat destruction helps protect endangered species and in turn helps increase biodiversity. I want to work on projects that help safeguard these species and their natural habitats.

I started attending South Puget Sound Community right out of High School. I completed Twelve quarters of classes relevant to the Master of Environment Studies. Cellular Biology, Majors Animal, Majors Plants, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, General Physics, and Environment Science. For my Biology Final research project, the water quality of Tolmie State Park. Using a mercury thermometer, I obtained the temperature of the water. For the pH measurement, a pH test strip kit was used. A titration kit was used to check dissolved oxygen levels. For the fecal coliform counts the results were obtained by using a petri dish, cultivation, and colony counting. When I graduated, I received two Associate degrees, one for General Biology, and the other for General Physics.

After graduating from South Puget Sound Community College, I attended Saint Martin's University and completed nine semesters of classes relevant to the Master of Environment Studies. Climate Change, Field Ecology, Marine Biology, Genetics, Invertebrate Zoology, and Biostatistics. My senior research project was exploring the side effects of *Xenopus laevis*

(African clawed frog) on endangered salmonids in Washington State. For this project, a group of students and myself worked together to develop methods. The salmonid species that were focused on were chum salmon, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and rainbow trout, with the life stages being egg, alevin, and fry. We work to care for the animals by feeding the frogs and cleaning their tanks. We set traps in the Saint Martin's storm ponds to catch the frogs, we used in the experiment. We manage a large dataset that consisted of trail dates, tank numbers, tanks with and without gravel, frog length, and mass, salmon species & life stages, egg mass pre and post trails, average & change in egg mass, alevin & fry amounts pre and post trails, number of alevin and fry consumed. Finally, we analyzed the data using R programming. After graduating from Saint Martin's University, I was given a Bachelor of Science in Environment Studies.

My time at Saint Martin's University influenced my decision to seek a graduate degree in environmental studies. A professor at Saint Martin's suggested that I get a Master's degree, mostly because it would make it easy for me to find a job, and going through Evergreen would help me gain practical experience. Thank you for taking the time to review my application. I look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jensen