

Statement of Purpose

Evergreen State College Masters Program for Environmental Science

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When I was in high school on the East side of Vancouver Washington near Camas Washington, I believed that like many hard-working students I would end up in engineering. Building the future and maintaining the present through studious labor and educated workings. With this mindset, I finished my pre-requirements for mechanical engineering through the running start program at Clark College while I was in high school for cheaper tuition and would go on to complete my 1st years worth of credits for a transfer degree to Washington State University Vancouver. However, when my second years' worth of classes came around they were more bland than I originally thought and the students I had originally taken classes with were not as large in number or lively in spirit as time and studying had slowly set in. It was not until I was in the middle of a run during my cross country season that I asked myself, was I truly going to end up happy in this field of study/work? Would this career path set me on the path to be the best person I can be or was this path laid out and simply present for me to walk on? What path would I have the best chance to be active, working with nature, social, and providing for more than myself? The answer I found to be best suiting with the years of outdoor community service I have spent in scouting and the mentality I was most confident within was, environmental science.

After I came to the revelation that environmental science was the field of study/work I truly wanted to complete and live upon I changed my classes and major. After taking heavy STEM classes from my original major and excess credits with running start the shift was not too

fraught with sacrifice. I completed the few classes I needed to at Clark and transferred to Washington State University Vancouver for my last 2 years of my bachelors degree. The School Of the Environment classes and topics covered was exactly what I was looking. In this time, I also had the opportunity to complete a 10 week internship for the Bureau of Land Management as a graduation requirement. It was paid, housing was provided, and I was given several hiking assignments to set up water temperature loggers across central Oregon around Prineville and Bend. I was even given opportunities to provide excel sheets for the department to hopefully utilize for the future. It was a paid vacation. As a result, my long term plan is to be hired to either the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management on the West side of the Cascades. The dryness and lack of moisture of the Oregon valley was not my strong suit. If you know what cheatgrass is, I feel your pain and am sorry to remind you. Working for the federal agency made me realize that I will benefit most from having a masters degree. Whether I like it or not, 2 more years of education would set me for life rather than always looking back and asking myself, what if?

Now reaching the present, past and current friends are going to your university for similar degrees as well as to run in your cross country and track programs. Names such as Evan Thill, Max Baeder, Maddy Palek, Soleil Bianchi, and Stan Johnson are ones I wish to join. The masters program for environmental science at your university seems one which will provide me with technical education that I missed out on from my mechanical engineering past and one which will give me an in depth outdoors teaching of the ecological environment I am most suited with. In my opinion, natural resource management will be a challenge for global populations and governments as the world's societies change, possibly for the worst. For a people to have their

natural resource's managed, provided, and understood will come to be a primary concern that the job force must reflect in the coming future.

For these reasons and above, I hope you take my statement of purpose and application into consideration and that I stand with and not above those in your family of Evergreen State College.