

Statement of Purpose
Graduate Program in Environmental Studies
Evergreen State College

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the Environmental Studies Graduate Program at Evergreen State College. Through my academic and professional experiences, I have cultivated a deep passion for the environment. This program will provide me with the necessary knowledge, skills, and opportunities to contribute to preserving the state's natural and cultural resources.

I am deeply connected to the environment, as I grew up in Vancouver, WA. From a young age, I have been fascinated with the outdoors and have envisioned a career in which I work to protect the natural environment. Growing up in Washington ignited my desire to pursue a career in Environmental policy, advocacy, and science. My career goal is to become a volunteer or program coordinator for a nonprofit or state agency.

I completed my undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Conservation: Policy, Planning, and Management (NRS), at the University of Idaho. During my three years at the University of Idaho, I have gained a solid foundation in environmental communications, policy, and research. While at the University of Idaho, I participated in various projects that gave me a solid foundation for this graduate program. A relevant project that I completed was "Recycling on Campus." This project used interviews, focus groups, and other qualitative social science research methods. The goal of this project was to get students and staff's views on the lack of recycling access on campus. This project honed my qualitative and quantitative analysis and research skills, but also sparked my interest in the interdisciplinary approaches of environmental studies.

Additionally, my internship at the Rediscovery Center solidified my interest in environmental studies. There, I completed the Better Ballymun project, which was a community-wide project in which we collaborated with the local community to better their environment. The project included the Rediscovery Center and the local secondary school. During this project, we fixed bicycles that were headed to the landfill, trash pick up, and tree planting. This experience demonstrated the importance of community engagement, sustainable practices, and policy to create effective solutions to environmental challenges.

The interdisciplinary approach to your program, which integrates environmental policy, management, justice, and research, aligns with my career and academic goals. I am drawn to the college's commitment to fostering an inclusive learning environment. The college's dedication to DEI efforts aligns with my personal beliefs and what draws me to the program and college. The dedication to indigenous studies and voices is important to this program and the field of environmental studies. This program will give me insight into different approaches to community engagement, policy, and advocacy.

In the long term, my career goal is to become and volunteer program coordinator with a non-profit or state agency. I am someone who thrives on collaborating with others to benefit the natural world. I want to give back to my local community and environment. This program would allow me to hone my skills in community engagement and environmental justice. I want to be a well-rounded professional within the field of environmental studies.

I am eager to join your academic community and collaborate with faculty and other students on groundbreaking research. I am confident that the Environmental Studies graduate program at Evergreen State College will help me achieve these goals and make a positive impact on the environmental issues we are faced with today.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and learn from this academic community.

Sincerely,
Ashley Paine