

In college, I took an interdisciplinary courseload focused on psychology, anthropology, and literature. I believe this has prepared me to approach the challenges of early childhood education and development because it has equipped me with a variety of tools to understand how a child learns and how I can relate to their natural incentives. I learned more about child development during my time as a camp counselor for Trackers Earth, which focused on teaching kids real wilderness skills. Much of my understanding of human psychology and education was challenged by my time in the Peace Corps, where I frequently interacted with young Senegalese children in my attempts to interest them in sustainable agriculture. My work as a teaching assistant to adults at a coding boot camp has helped me learn how to break down complex topics and explain them at different levels. And of course I've learned a great deal from hands-on experience working in two different school districts in Portland. I've been able to learn concepts of childhood development from my coworkers quickly because my studies and work experience have taught me to analyze human behavior from a psychological, cultural, and even literary point of view.

While I have some gaps in my coursework, I have approached many of the required subjects in my life since graduation. I've taken a year-long immersion course in agroforestry and wilderness survival that drew knowledge from the practices of First Nations in the Pacific Northwest. This has educated me about the pre-colonization history of the US, as well as life sciences and ancient technologies. I've worked as a carpenter, which has developed my understanding of physics and geometry. I've worked as a software developer, which has educated me in mathematics and electrical engineering.

While I haven't taken a college-level civics course, my mom is a lobbyist and has given me hands-on lessons in civic engagement since I was four years old. I've previously been CPR and first aid certified and will be renewing my certification before summer of 2025. Although I only took one history course in college, I took classes in anthropology and I now watch documentaries on ancient civilizations and history for fun. While I haven't taken a course in children's literature, 25% of my college coursework was in literary analysis and I feel confident that the skills will transfer. If admitted to Evergreen, I plan to start filling these gaps in my courseload by taking community college courses in the Winter and Spring. I believe my extra-curricular interest in a broad variety of subjects will help me to complete these requirements quickly.

