Dear MES Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Program on the Environment at The Evergreen State College!

Our Master of Environmental Studies (MES) degree, which started in 1984, is a two-year interdisciplinary degree focused on training tomorrow’s environmental leaders.  Our courses are team-taught in the evening by faculty in the natural and social sciences.  Students are admitted every Fall into a cohort of 45 students from a variety of backgrounds and college majors. The program is made up of a series of required comprehensive core classes, as well as electives, internships, independent study projects, and a thesis project. Classes are at night, allowing you to work or intern during the day. Tuition is affordable, and scholarships are available.

Students from all walks of life are admitted into the program. Because the program is interdisciplinary, we admit students with a variety of college majors as long as they have shown interest and experience in environmental issues through their academic, work, and volunteer experience. Unlike research institutions, which require students to work with one faculty advisor on their funded research, MES supports students in designing their own thesis project. Furthermore, all MES faculty members, the Director, and the Assistant Director are available to guide students through the program and help them find appropriate learning experiences. Students also receive evaluations instead of grades to assess their performance.

MES graduates go on to work in government, natural resources, environmental education, policy, nonprofits, and sustainable business.  The program is best-suited to students who would like to approach environmental problems from a holistic point-of-view in the Pacific Northwest. Our location in Olympia, Washington’s state capital, allows for opportunities with state and federal agencies, as well as local nonprofits.

If you would like to learn more about Evergreen, please sign up for an online or on-campus info session at evergreen.edu/mes/infosessions. You can also check out our travel schedule to see if we’ll be in a city near you: evergreen.edu/mes/visit.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to email me at mayh@evergreen.edu or call me at 360-867-6225.

We hope to see your application soon!

Sincerely,



Heather May

Assistant Director, Master of Environmental Studies

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