

Joint MES/MPA Degree at The Evergreen State College

Starting in the Fall of 2006, the Master in Environmental Study and Master in Public Administration Programs at The Evergreen State College began offering a combined MES/MPA Degree. This joint program is designed both for environmental professionals who wish to improve their administrative skills and for public administrators and public policy professionals who want to gain expertise in the analysis of environmental issues.

Curriculum Guidelines

- Students must complete a total of 96 credits in both programs to obtain the degree, including core coursework and electives in both programs.
- Electives should be approximately equally divided between MES and MPA. If a student is in the MPA-Tribal program, s/he must take five MPA-Tribal concentration courses. The MPA and MES Directors must approve students' educational plans for elective work.
- All joint-degree students are required to complete an 8- or 16-credit MES Thesis instead of the MPA Capstone or thesis. The MES/MPA thesis prospectus requires approval by both the MPA and MES Directors.

Admission to the Joint-Degree Program

NEW STUDENTS: New students must have completed all prerequisites for both programs to be admitted. The MES application form should be used, with clear indication on the application of the intent to apply for the joint degree. Applications are due March 1 and admissions decisions will be made by mid-April each year.

ALREADY ENROLLED STUDENTS: Students already enrolled in either program may apply for admission into the joint-degree program, provided that they will have completed no more than 52 credits prior to entering the joint-degree program. Current MES or MPA students can apply for providing the following to the MES Director:

- 1) an updated personal statement explaining the reasons for wanting to earn the joint degree;
- 2) an updated academic plan outlining their intended path through the program;
- 3) transcripts;
- 4) two letters of recommendation from faculty in the graduate program in which the student is enrolled at the time of application.

After submitting these documents, a meeting between the applicant and the program directors will follow to discuss, in part, the advisability of entering the joint program.

For further information, please contact the MES Program Assistant, Tricia Bateman, at 360-867-5940 or hildebrp@evergreen.edu