



• master of environmental studies

**the
evergreen
state
college**
olympia, washington

Graduate Program on the Environment
Training environmental leaders since 1984

WHAT IS AN MES DEGREE?

A Master of Environmental Studies (MES) degree is an interdisciplinary degree that prepares graduates for the complex nature of professional environmental work. Evergreen's Graduate Program on the Environment awards an MES degree versus a Master of Science (MS) or a Master of Arts (MA) in a specific discipline because we believe this well-rounded degree better prepares our graduates to be environmental leaders.

OUR MISSION

Founded in 1984, Evergreen's Graduate Program on the Environment is an internationally known program that prepares students to think critically and chart creative and radical possibilities to solve environmental problems. The program emphasizes environmental issues and opportunities in the Pacific Northwest.

THINK LIKE OUR GRADUATES

Our graduates are creative, critical thinkers who approach environmental challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective. Employers highly value our graduates because of their ability to understand the broader ecological, economic, political, social, and cultural impacts of a single environmental issue. Our graduates are professionals with the leadership, communication, and research skills necessary to address current environmental issues.

IS EVERGREEN RIGHT FOR ME?

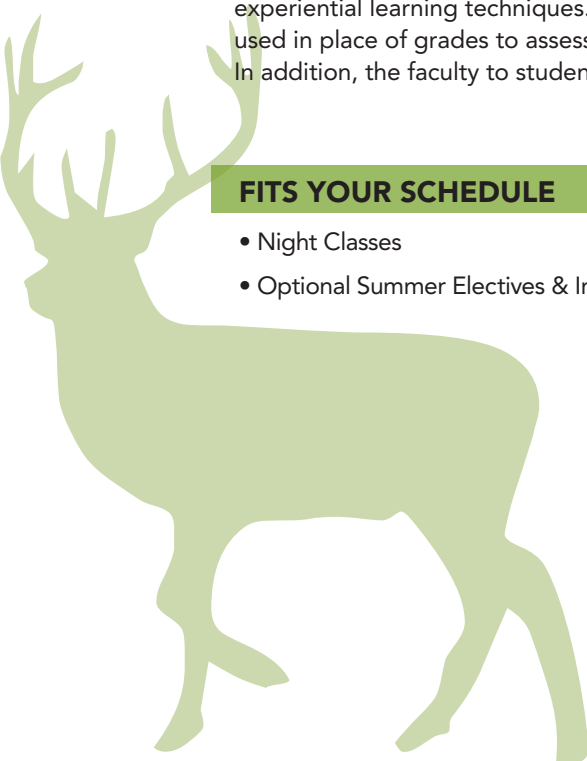
If you are interested in studying and interacting with our world's greatest environmental challenges, then this program is for you. We recognize that the best environmental solutions come from a wide variety of perspectives—that is why we accept all majors, and why our students, who come to us from across the US and abroad, represent a wide range of ages, cultures, and expertise. Regardless of a student's educational or work background, we train our graduates to build upon their strengths by creating holistic approaches to environmental challenges through exploration and collaboration.

OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our students work together in a cohort model forming a tight-knit community that leads to lasting professional and personal relationships. Students engage with interdisciplinary faculty teams in a participatory learning environment; the majority of classes involve workshops, seminars, and other experiential learning techniques. Classes at Evergreen are credit/no credit, and narrative evaluations are used in place of grades to assess performance, reflecting both student and faculty assessment of learning. In addition, the faculty to student ratio is 15:1, allowing students to gain full access to faculty expertise.

FITS YOUR SCHEDULE

- Night Classes
- Optional Summer Electives & Internships
- Finish in two years (full-time) or three years (part-time)
- Work full- or part-time while earning your degree



CURRICULUM**CORE COURSES 32 CREDITS**

Core courses are team-taught by faculty members from different disciplines, and meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6-10pm. Core classes teach students to think about environmental challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective and guide students toward thesis completion in their final year. Students attend core classes sequentially with a cohort of 40 students. All core classes are eight credits each.

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
1	Conceptualizing Our Regional Environment (gCORE)	Environmental & Social Sustainability (ESS)	Research Design and Quantitative Methods (RDOM)

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
2	Case Studies & Thesis Design	Thesis Workshop	Thesis Workshop

ELECTIVES 24 CREDITS

Students must take the equivalent of six 4-credit MES electives. Electives are available in three coordinated areas:

★ **Ecology** ★ **Energy and Climate Change** ★ **Sustainable Communities**

They are offered on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 6-10pm and generally hold 15 students. Three to four electives are offered every quarter and are primarily taught by Ph.D.-level professionals in the field. Specific classes include: climate change, GIS, renewable energy, biological conservation, water, political ecology, forest ecology, environmental policy, and environmental education.

In addition to elective courses, students can meet elective requirements through the following:

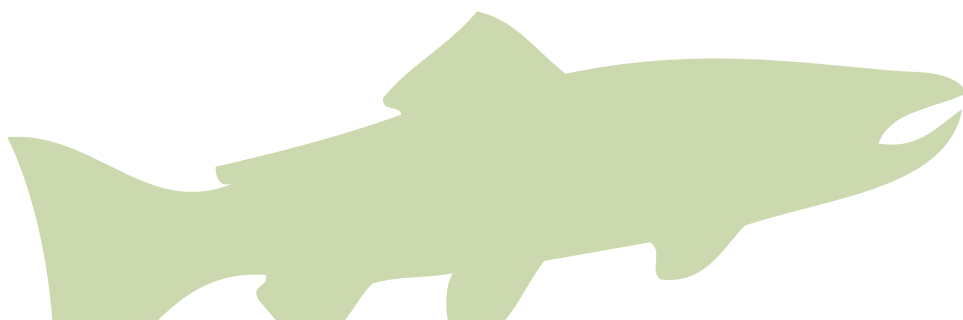
- Internships
- Independent study
- Other accredited graduate program courses

INTERNSHIPS

Internships are highly encouraged because they often lead to thesis topics and future employment. Because of our location in Washington's state capital, many internships are with state agencies, and a number are with federal and local government, as well as local, national, and international organizations or businesses. Program staff and faculty will help you find your perfect internship.

THESIS 16 CREDITS

All students are required to write a thesis of their own design; ideas come from individual student interests, internships, community organization needs or faculty research. Students do not need to know their thesis topic when entering the program and will be matched with a faculty advisor in their final year to guide them toward thesis completion. Students are also required to attend a thesis workshop offered in the winter and spring of their final year that meets every other Tuesday evening.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the last 90 graded quarter-hours or the last 60 graded semester-hours.
3. Evidence of writing, analytical and general communication skills of high quality and at a level appropriate for graduate study, as demonstrated by the application materials.
4. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), with scores sent to Evergreen.
5. Completion of 4 quarter credits (or 3 semester credits) in each of the following courses within the five years prior to starting the MES degree (must earn a "C" or higher):
 - ★ **one social science course** (e.g. economics, sociology, political science, anthropology, human geography)
 - ★ **one natural science course** (e.g. biology, ecology, geology, chemistry, physical geography)
 - ★ **one statistics course**
6. Completion of undergraduate courses that include at least 15 quarter-hours in social science and 15 quarter-hours in biological or physical science is recommended.

Please see www.evergreen.edu/mes/admission for most recent admission requirements.

FINANCIAL AID

On average, more than 75% of MES students who apply for MES awards receive some kind of non-loan aid. Of those who apply for MES financial aid, 95% of nonresidents and 70% of residents are awarded. The average award for nonresidents typically covers 22% of nonresident tuition and the average award for residents usually covers 37% of tuition.

Applicants and admits are highly encouraged to fill out the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon as possible after January 1 to qualify for need-based financial aid, which includes loans, scholarships, fellowships, and tuition waivers. The program also offers merit-based awards, awards for international students, and a scholarship for AmeriCorps alumni. Most awards require an application.

Visit www.evergreen.edu/mes/financial for more information.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The priority application deadline for each Fall quarter is February 15. Submit the following to be considered for admission:

- ☐ **Graduate admission application + \$50 nonrefundable application fee**
(AmeriCorps members, AmeriCorps alumni, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, McNair Scholars, and military veterans apply for free)
- ☐ **Official transcripts from every college or university attended**
- ☐ **A typed statement of purpose, 500 to 1,000 words**
- ☐ **Three letters of recommendation**
- ☐ **Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores**
- ☐ **Resumé**

COSTS

Our program is one of the most affordable environmental master's degrees in the country. Depending on a student's residency status, the cost of attendance is below or at the low end of the average annual cost of grad school in the U.S. (according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*). Most students fund tuition with financial aid and full or part-time work. See www.evergreen.edu/mes/costs for current tuition rates.

"Evergreen MES graduates are very dedicated to environmental management and sustainability. They have a strong foundation in environmental policy and they understand the intricacies and challenges of building public support for sustainable practices. In addition to the passion they bring to their work, they are also inquisitive, analytical and self-directed. These are the qualities that I associate with Evergreen's educational philosophy. I have had some of my best professional experiences working with these graduates."

BRIAN WALSH Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program Manager

WHERE DO MES STUDENTS AND ALUMNI WORK?

MES alumni are employed in virtually all areas of the public sector throughout the country and abroad. Our graduates are making valuable contributions as private consultants and in the nonprofit arena, addressing such issues as climate change, forest protection and conservation of critical habitat areas, among others. While the program is geared toward professional preparation, a growing number of MES alumni have pursued further studies in doctoral and law programs. Employers have included:

The Nature Conservancy

Northwest Indian Fish Commission

British Columbia Provincial Government

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle

City Governments (Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma, and others)

Washington state departments (including Transportation, Ecology, Fish & Wildlife, Health, Parks & Recreation, and Natural Resources)

US Department of the Interior, Forest Service and Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington state tribes (Nisqually, Quinault, Squaxin Island, Yakama & others)

Rocky Mountain Bird Institute

The Trust for Public Land

North Cascades Institute

Pacific Shellfish Institute

Pacific Science Center

World Wildlife Fund

US military

NOAA



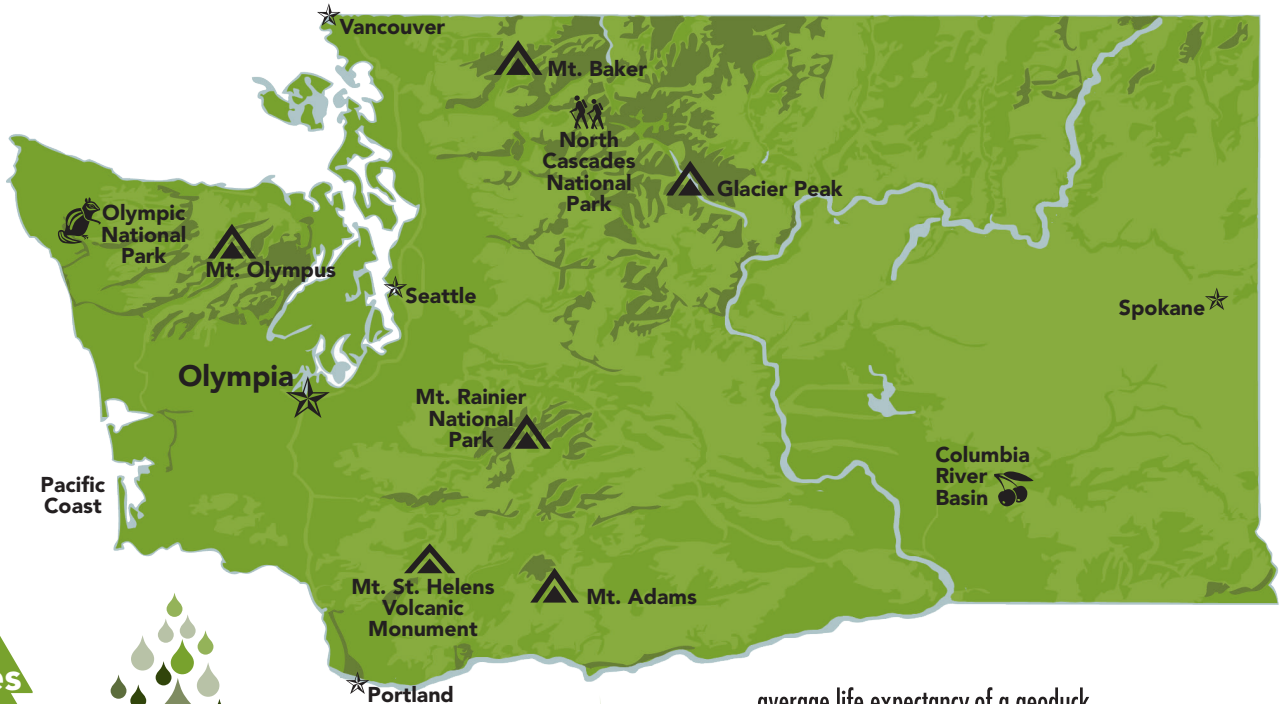
"The MES program allowed me to explore different areas of focus—from pursuing my LEED AP exam to working with Evergreen's Climate Mitigation report. I'm interested in waste management and the built community, so I focused my research on deconstruction. Since graduating from MES, I have worked at the City of Tacoma's Office of Sustainability, led a 'green business' program at the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber and am now working at Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) as a sustainable business coordinator. I finished my degree in 2.5 years while working full-time. Participating in Evergreen's MES program opened my eyes to jobs I had never thought of before."

STEPHANIE GOWING MES Graduate, Sustainable Business Coordinator, ECOSS



CLOSE TO EVERYTHING

Halfway between the Pacific Ocean beaches and the Cascade mountains, yet only an hour south of Seattle and two hours north of Portland, Oregon, Olympia furnishes a wide variety of both urban and rural opportunities for students pursuing an education in environmental studies. Its location on the Salish Sea (or Puget Sound), with views of the Olympic Mountains and Mt. Rainier, make it a beautiful backdrop for pursuing a graduate education. As Washington State's capital, it provides immediate access to several environmentally-focused state and federal agencies, policymakers, and nonprofits.



700
acres
of campus
forest

Likelihood of rain showers
during your time at Evergreen
107%

3,300
Feet of
unspoiled
BEACH

60 MILES
OLYMPIA
TO SEATTLE

average life expectancy of a geoduck

146
YEARS



14
million
kilowatt
hours of
**GREEN
POWER**
used by the
college

Evergreen's commitment to green power
100%

14,411
elevation of
mt. rainier (feet)

41%
of campus
garbage is
recycled

5 acre
organic farm

Number of days per week
**local
farmers
markets**
6
are open during the summer

MESGRADUATES
630
and counting!

2 of
biodiesel tractors at the organic farm

student-run
bike shop **1**

M.E.S.

The Evergreen State College • 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW • Olympia, WA 98505 • 360.867.6225

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www.evergreen.edu/mes