**Program Overview**

The work that people do in public service is vast. To meet this need, the MPA program offers three areas of concentration so you can tailor the degree to meet your needs while exploring a core of critical materials for public administration.

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| Summary of Concentration Requirements |
| **Concentration** | **Core Program** | **Concentration Requirements** | **Electives** | **Total Credits** |
| Public & Nonprofit Administration | 36 | N/A | 24 | 60 |
| Public Policy | 36 | 8 | 16 | 60 |
| Tribal Governance | 36 | 20 | 4 | 60 |

**The Core Program**

The Core program consists of two years of required offerings, with six credit hours of study in Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters. Each class admitted for the upcoming fall begins the Core programs as a group, or cohort, and continue together for the first two years. In each quarter of Core, students earn six credit hours, for a total of 36 credits for the completion of Core requirements.

During the first year, you will examine the foundations of public administration, the economic and political context of the public sector, concepts of democratic governance, explore policy, finance and budgeting, and gain additional practical knowledge and skills needed to run an organization in the public, private, nonprofit or tribal sectors.

During the Fall and Winter quarters of your second year, you will focus on analytic concepts and techniques, including research methods and the application of analytical techniques in administration.

Spring quarter of your second year culminates in the Capstone course. In Capstone, you will reflect on your work in the program, integrate experiences by looking at your work holistically, and reflect what you have learned in the program through a demonstration project.

**The MPA Concentration Areas**

**Public and Nonprofit Administration**



*I chose the Evergreen program while working abroad after reviewing many different programs. I loved the diverse and challenging field of nonprofits, so Nonprofit Management was my natural focus. I communicated with other leaders in my field who were Evergreen alumni and they raved about the program. Upon visiting, I fell in love with the class structure, campus and the welcoming faculty.* —*Nikki Felker MPA Student, Public/Nonprofit Concentration with current emphasis on nonprofit studies*

This concentration prepares you to begin or advance in careers as administrators in public or nonprofit organizations. In addition to the 36 credits of the Core programs, students in this concentration take 24 credit hours of MPA elective courses that best serve their learning goals. Students find this option most popular for its ability to tailor your studies to your professional interests.

Coursework covers the critical elements of administration, including budgeting, strategic planning, human resources and information systems, public law, leadership and ethics, and multicultural competencies. The programs focus on the unique nature and needs of nonprofit and government organizations.

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Students with a strong interest in public or nonprofit administration may select courses that feature the financial side of organizations or management, as well as important subjects such as Public Law. We also offer a selection of courses on nonprofits, including Nonprofit Management and Grantwriting. Many students in this concentration will also take a course or two on public policy.

**Public Policy**



*When I first enrolled, I thought I would stay in the public/nonprofit administration concentration. However, my experiences in core classes and electives during my first few quarters revealed that both my skill set and interests were actually more closely aligned with the public policy concentration. This was solidified during an amazing internship with a public policy focus.* —*Matt Lemon MPA 2013, Public Policy Concentration, Current Research Associate for Washington State Institute for Public Policy*

This concentration prepares you to begin or advance in positions such as policy analyst, budget analyst, or evaluator. Coursework emphasizes a combination of knowledge and skills, including the understanding of various models of public policy, how to analyze current and proposed policies, and how to engage in policy development and advocacy.

Students in this concentration complete the 36 credit Core, 8 credits of required public policy coursework and 16 credits of MPA elective courses in particular public policy arenas and other aspects of public administration.

* *Foundations of Public Policy* examines models of the policy process, policy analysis techniques, an advanced discussion of the relationship between policy and politics, implementation and evaluation issues.
* *Advanced Research Methods* teaches the research design, analysis, and statistical techniques needed to work successfully in this arena.

Elective courses are offered in a variety of policy areas including health policy, poverty policy, education policy, and environmental policy. Students with other policy interests may study them through individual learning contracts with MPA faculty.

**Tribal Governance**



*The biggest take-away for me was the Analytical Techniques I & II comprehensive research bringing together our current and past work as teams and individuals. The amount of critical thinking and statistical data was conformed with law and ethics. I have been able to apply those learning techniques as an Executive board member, manager, and now an Associate Director of a Tribal Coalition.* —*Dawn Lewis, Chehalis, MPA Student, Tribal Governance Concentration with an emphasis on Tribal Policy Development*

This concentration prepares you to begin or advance as an administrator who can assist both tribal governments and the public agencies with which the tribes interact. The Tribal Governance concentration curriculum has been developed to meet the needs of professionals who wish to gain an in-depth education in the field of indigenous government administration.

Students in this concentration complete the 36 credit Core program, five 4-credit courses focusing on issues of critical importance to tribes, including sovereignty issues, intergovernmental relations, regulatory policy, and economic development, and an additional 4 credit elective. Other MPA students can enroll in Tribal concentration courses as electives.

The Tribal Governance MPA at Evergreen is the only program of its kind in the United States. It was developed in coordination with tribal leaders to offer credentials that reflect in-depth specialization in contemporary Tribal governance subject areas.

**Electives**

Develop your interests more fully by selecting from a range of relevant elective offerings. Students may choose elective courses from the MPA or Master in Environmental Studies offerings. Courses are offered during the regular academic year as well as in the summer. Course offerings change annually. See [current catalog](http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog) for available offerings.

In addition, students may opt to do a thesis or to design their own courses through individual learning contracts and internships.

**Affiliations and Accreditation**

Evergreen's MPA program is a member of the [National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA)](http://www.naspaa.org/) and subscribes to NASPAA's [Code of Good Practice.](http://www.naspaa.org/about_naspaa/members/code/)

The Evergreen State College is accredited by the [Northwest Association of Schools and Universities](http://www.nwccu.org/).

**Contact**

Master of Public Administration

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