Hello James--

As a student in “Veterans Next Mission,” you might be considering now to translate your military experience into a public service career. If so, we hope you’ll consider **Evergreen’s own Master of Public Administration (MPA) program** as a possible grad school choice. We’re **now accepting applications for Fall 2015** (<http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm>) with a priority deadline of **February 2nd, 2015**, but it’s \***not**\* too soon to start asking questions and planning for future years. For more info, feel welcome to contact me at [gibbonsr@evergreen.edu](mailto:gibbonsr@evergreen.edu) or 360-867-6554.

***To learn about the program right away…***

* **Attendour next group info session this coming Monday, December 8th *from 6-7pm***at the **\*downtown\*** [Olympia Timberland Library](http://www.trl.org/Locations/Pages/LibraryInformation.aspx?lib=ol). At the info session I'll discuss our curriculum, admissions requirements, program costs, financial aid, and answer any questions you have. **No need to RSVP — just show up!** *For more info, go to our Information Sessions page:* [*http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm*](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm)

***Why get your MPA here at Evergreen****?*

* **Our program features the key elements of the Evergreen education:**
  + You’ll be part of a **vibrant learning community** of 55-65 students and form strong friendships and professional relationships with your faculty and colleagues
  + **Interdisciplinary** faculty teams teach Core courses -- effectively address the complexity of contemporary public problems
  + **Small class size** (15 to 20 students per faculty member)
  + **Seminar based learning:** students actively participate in and learn to facilitate engaged and thoughtful discussions encompassing diverse views
  + **Credit/no credit** courses with narrative evaluations to assess learning
  + With our evening/weekend program, students learn as much from their fellow students as from their faculty, due to considerable diversity in age (from 20s-60s), work experience (from recent college grads through seasoned managers), cultural/socioeconomic background, interests and career aspirations. Consequently, our students tell us that they’ve learned as much from their fellow students as from their faculty, and have come out of the program with many colleagues and friends that they will have for the rest of their lives.
* **Our deep commitment to democratic and socially just public service**: We want our graduates to be thoroughly engaged public servants who actively work toward ameliorating inequalities and inequities in their organizations and communities, and we design and deliver our program with this in mind.
* **Affordable** – **a bargain** for Washington State residents **at about $17-18,000 for tuition and fees for the ENTIRE degree *(\*half\* the tuition/fees for an MPA at UW or Seattle U) – cost per credit is approximately $290****;* for **non-resident** students**, less than average costs!** In addition, the vast majority of MPA students are eligible for one or more forms of financial aid, including: federal student loans, scholarships, tuition waivers and work study: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/costs.htm>
* **Convenient –** our flexible evening/weekend programallows you to work during the day*,* go part-time or full-time and **get your MPA** **in as little as 2 years!** 
  + Entirely an evening and weekend program: evening classes meet just **\*one\*** weeknight per week
    - Core courses meet on Thursday nights from 6-10pm
    - Electives typically meet just 1 or 2 weekends \***per quarter**\*
  + Full-time (2 years) or part-time (typically 3-4 years) options
  + Typical full time schedule: **Thursdays from 6-10pm + 1 or 2 weekends each quarter**
  + Format enables students to commute from all over the area
* **You’ll study the** **critical elements of public service and administration so you can begin or advance your public/nonprofit sector career**
  + MPA coursework includes: budgeting, strategic thinking/planning, human resources and information systems, public law, leadership and ethics, multicultural competencies, political and policy analyses and research methods. ***Check out the Fall quarter 1st year Core syllabus*:** <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/Syllabus%20Context%20of%20PA%20General%20Cohort%20Fall%209_30_14_final.pdf>
  + Our alumni report that the most highly valued skills acquired through the Evergreen MPA program were: collaboration, critical thinking, analysis and communication skills.
  + Check out our Program Overview page for more info: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/program.htm>
* **Flexible degree requirements allow you to customize your MPA degree**! Our program offers students a lot of flexibility and opportunity to gear their degree toward their field(s) of interest, including taking up to 24 elective credits in multiple interest areas; up to **12 credits can be taken as independent study**!

***We are now accepting Fall 2015 applications.***

* Students begin the MPA program once a year, every Fall -- **as a learning community or “cohort” of about 55-65 students.**
* You can start your Fall 2015 online application now and add your application materials as you complete them.
* **February 2, 2015** is our **priority application deadline: *consideration is guaranteed*** *for applicants who meet the deadline.*
* **The GRE** is **\*not\* required for admission**.
* For admissions requirements and complete application info, go to: [**http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm**](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm)

***More ways to learn about the program…***

* ***Keep informed*** about MPA by [following us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenMPA)
* ***Visit one night of 1st year core and see for yourself what the Evergreen MPA program is like!***

1st Year Core meets **on Thursday nights from 6-10pm in the Seminar 2 building complex, Room C1105** (ground floor of C building). ***In Winter quarter,*** the class (“Doing Democratic Public Administration”) ***accepts visitors*** ***from January 15th through March 5th.*** **You can just show up to a class**: right before class begins just be sure to let the faculty know that you are there as a visitor. *If you can do it, we highly recommend that you attend the entire class and* ***stay until 10pm****, to give you the best sense of what the course is really like.* And, this is your chance to **talk with current MPA students** during the break -- they were in your shoes a year ago!

* Here is a link to directions and a campus map – ***get to campus at about 5:40pm*** so you can have time to pay for parking ($2/day) at the Parking Booth, park in Lot C and make your way there. :<http://www.evergreen.edu/tour/gethere.htm>
* ***Meet with me, in person or by phone***. I am available for ½ hour in-person or phone appointments: just email me with a few upcoming dates and times that would work for you. For in- person appointments: I'm in the Lab 1 building in Room 3024 – on the 3rd floor in the “Graduate Program Office” area.
* ***Contact MPA faculty member Amy Gould*** to discuss the program and the curriculum from a faculty perspective, at [goulda@evergreen.edu](mailto:goulda@evergreen.edu)
* ***Take a look at our*** [***course offerings***](http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2014-15/mpa/index.htm) ***and*** [***course syllabi***](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi.htm)***:*** look at course titles, descriptions, schedules, booklists, assignments, etc. Do they interest you? Do they make you excited to learn more?

***A few more of the top reasons to attend our program:***

* **Take elective courses from leading practitioners of public administration** such as**:** [**State Senator Karen Fraser**](http://www.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/senators/fraser/)(teaching “Environmental Policy” in Fall 2014) **and** [**Olympia Mayor Stephen Buxbaum**](http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/city-council-and-mayor/city-council-contact-and-meet-us/buxbaum)(teaching “Doing the Public’s Business” in Fall 2014). Take a look at our 2014-15 catalog: <http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2014-15/mpa/index.htm>
* **Flexible degree requirements allow you to customize your MPA degree**! Our program offers students a lot of flexibility and opportunity to gear their degree toward their field(s) of interest, including taking up to 24 elective credits in multiple interest areas; up to **12 credits can be taken as independent study**!
* **Hundreds of our graduates are working in a wide variety of responsible positions** within state, local, tribal and federal governments, education, nonprofit organizations, advocacy organizations, and private industry – see our “Students and Graduates” page for more info: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/profiles.htm>
* **A national reputation:** Washington Monthly ranks Evergreen among the top master’s colleges in the nation. Their distinctive rating asks “what are colleges doing for the country?” and ranks Evergreen 29 in the nation among master’s degree colleges for 2012–13 Academic Year. And, Evergreen earned accolades as among the nation's Top Public Affairs Graduate Schools in the 2012 edition of the Best Graduate Schools by US News Media Group: <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-public-affairs-schools/the-evergreen-state-college-235167>
* **Careers for MPA grads:**

We have alumni working at all levels of government (federal, state, city, county, tribal), in the non-profit sector, in the for-profit sector and in a wide variety of interest areas, including: health, education, law enforcement, social services, environmental issues, homelessness, legislative policy, community development, transportation, human resources, budgeting, strategic planning, project management. More specifically, what follows is a list of job titles of some of our students and alumni. You can find additional info about public administration careers at the site of our national organization: <http://www.naspaa.org/students/careers/alumni.asp>

+ Public Affairs Manager for a non-profit organization

+ Research Project Manager for a state agency

+ Executive Director for a non-profit organization

+ Human Resources Consultant for a state agency

+ Comprehensive Planner for a local city

+ Program Director for a local college

+ Legislative Analyst for a state agency

+ Administrator for division of state law enforcement agency

+ Mayor for a local city

+ Program Manager with local non-profit

+ Business Software Specialist for a state agency

+ Prevention Manager for a state agency

+ Research Manager for a federal agency

+ Recruitment Manager for a state agency

+ Education and Outreach Specialist for a local county

+ Capital Campaign Manager with local non-profit

+ Lobbyist for a local non-profit

+ Senior Research Analyst for a state agency

+ Legislative Liaison for state agency

+ Housing Division Manager for a state agency

+ Sustainability Coordinator for a college

+ Forecast Analyst for a state agency

+ Faculty at a college

+ Operations Manager for a library system

Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions you may have and to let me know how I can help.

James, come and join us and **“Be the change” --**

Best to you!

Randee

Randee Gibbons, MPP, MA

Assistant MPA Director, Public & Nonprofit Administration and Public Policy Concentrations

**The Evergreen State College**

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*"Determination, energy, and courage appear spontaneously when we care deeply about something. We take risks that are unimaginable in any other context." ~ Margaret J. Wheatley*