Hello Eliot --

As someone who has applied to be an intern with the Legislature for the upcoming session, we thought you might be interested in Evergreen’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) program as a possible graduate school choice.

At Evergreen’s MPA program you’ll study the critical elements of public service and administration so you can advance your public service career, all in a very affordable ($290 per credit) evening and weekend program designed for working adults. Even better, if you’ve enjoyed your Evergreen undergraduate work, you’ll find the same elements in our MPA program: an interdisciplinary/integrated program taught by faculty teams with a heavy emphasis on seminar-based learning.

Here is some detailed information about our program that I hope will be helpful to you.

**First, re: admission:** we’re now accepting **Fall 2015** applications, and you can start your online application anytime and add your application materials as you complete them. Consideration is \***guaranteed**\* for all applications completed by our priority deadline of **February 2, 2015.**

* Students begin the MPA program once a year, every Fall -- **as a learning community or “cohort” of about 55-65 students.**
* **Application and admission requirements info:** [**http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm**](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm)

***Find out more about us:***

* ***Attend our \*final\* MPA group info session* in 2014 -- *Monday, December 8th from 6-7pm at the downtown Olympia Timberland Library*** (@ 8th and Franklin):<http://www.trlib.org/Locations/Pages/LibraryInformation.aspx?lib=ol>. I'll be there to discuss our curriculum, admissions requirements, program costs, financial aid, and to answer any questions you have. **No need to RSVP — just show up.**
* ***Visit one night of 1st year core and see for yourself what the Evergreen MPA program is like.*** In Fall 2014 choose **any Thursday night from October 16th through December 4th** – class meets from 6-10pm in the Seminar 2 building complex, A building, Room A1105. **No need to RSVP -- just show up!** For details, see “Visit a Class” on our Information Sessions page: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm>. You can also check out the [Fall 2014 course syllabus](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/Syllabus%20Context%20of%20PA%20General%20Cohort%20Fall%209_30_14_final.pdf) on the MPA [Course Syllabi](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi.htm) page.
* ***Get a head start on your MPA and take up to 12 elective credits \*before\* admission.* You don’t have to wait**: if you have your bachelor’s degree you can “test drive” our program and take **up to 12 credits of MPA elective courses** before the Fall quarter of admission: these creditswill count toward your MPA.
* **Register for Winter 2015 electives beginning Monday, December 29th.** For complete registration information, go to the MPA "Registration Info" page at this link: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/reginfo.htm>. FYI in general, for Fall, Winter and Spring quarters, non-admitted graduate special students may begin registering for open MPA elective courses a week before the quarter begins, on a space-available basis and with instructor permission.
* **2014-2015 MPA course catalog**: <http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2014-15/mpa/index.htm>
* The cost of a 2 credit elective course is approximately $600 for tuition and fees.
* Note that non-admitted students are \***not**\* eligible for financial assistance through Evergreen, such as scholarship aid or the Federal loan program.
* ***Keep informed*** about MPA by [following us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenMPA)

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

* **Convenient:***designed for working adults -- keep your day job, 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
* **Affordable:** **1/2 the cost of other local MPA programs**
  + A **bargain** for Washington State residents **at about $17-18,000 for tuition and fees for the \*entire\* degree =** less than **\*one-half\* the tuition and fees of an MPA at UW or Seattle U**
  + For **resident students, cost per credit** is about **$290**
  + For **non-resident** students**, less than average costs:** <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/costs.htm>
  + 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>
* **You’ll study the** **critical elements of public service and administration so you can 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>
* At Evergreen you’ll be part of a **vibrant learning community** that you create with your faculty and fellow students.
  + 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
  + Cohort model: students move through Core coursework with their “cohort” of 55-65 students, forming strong friendships and professional relationships
  + 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.
* **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**!
* **Generous transfer policy**: transfer up to \***20**\* graduate credits from another institution and complete your MPA here! See our transfer policy for details: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/studenthandbook/transfercredits.htm>
* **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>

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

* ***Meet with me, in person or by phone.***  I’d be happy to talk with you about our program: I make ½ hour in-person or phone appointments with prospective students. Just email me with a few 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. Easiest to park in Lot B – you can buy a pass at the parking booth (on the left as you drive onto campus) for $2/day or park at a meter in Lot B for 50 cents per hour. When you walk from Lot B toward campus, Lab 1 is on your left, just off of the bus drop-off “arc” before you get to the bus shelter and the main walkway onto campus and Red Square. For more detailed info, here is a link to directions and a campus map – the Lab 1 building is #7 on the campus map: <http://www.evergreen.edu/tour/gethere.htm>
* ***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?

Finally…feel welcome to contact me, anytime, with any questions you may have, at [gibbonsr@evergreen.edu](mailto:gibbonsr@evergreen.edu) or 360-867-6554.

**Thank you for considering Evergreen’s MPA program!**

Best to you,

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