



MASTER of PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

2012-2013 SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS INSTRUCTION PACKET



SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS by **Monday, March 19, 2012** to:

The Evergreen State College
Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program
c/o Jan Hays, MPA Office Assistant
Lab 1, Room 3019
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505
haysj@evergreen.edu

*Please note that faxed materials will **not** be accepted.*

The Master of Public Administration Program makes available tuition wavers, scholarships, fellowships, work-study and other aid to persons admitted to the MPA program. This packet describes financial opportunities available for the 2012-13 academic year. The MPA program makes a significant effort to award aid to as many students as possible, contingent upon the availability of funds. These awards are provided **in addition** to other “need-based” financial aid offered through The Evergreen State College Financial Aid Office (360-867-6205).

Information about MPA Financial Assistance Awards

Every year the MPA Program offers a limited number of scholarships and aid to qualified students. Priority consideration in awarding financial assistance is given to students in good academic standing. All graduate students are expected to perform at a high academic level and to support and contribute to a well functioning MPA classroom learning community. Preference for MPA financial assistance awards is given to applicants who will be enrolled **full-time** (at least 8 Evergreen graduate credits per quarter) **and** enrolled in 1st or 2nd year MPA **core** courses. All students should be aware that Evergreen's tuition and fees for 2012-2013 are subject to change by the Washington State Legislature.

If you anticipate having any need of financial assistance to cover your graduate school costs in 2012-2013, you should file a Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial need is determined by Evergreen's Financial Aid Office after receipt and processing of the FAFSA. Please see the instructions section of this packet for more information about filing your FAFSA.

For the 2012-2013 academic year, the MPA Program is offering several types of awards. Some scholarships and fellowships are need-based, as determined by a student's FAFSA. Several awards offered do not take need into consideration, and do not require a filed FAFSA. **The MPA program also offers two types of awards – the *Tuition Waiver* and the *MPA Merit Awards* that students are automatically considered for** - students do not need to apply for them. To be considered for a Tuition Waiver a FAFSA must be on file. The MPA Merit and MPA-Tribal Governance Merit Awards seek to recognize top performing students, regardless of need, so a FAFSA is not required. The MPA program is also offering a *Graduate Assistant Award* in 2012-2013 that will consist of one or more Work/Study positions.

To apply for MPA Scholarships and Financial Assistance Awards, please submit a completed and **signed MPA Financial Assistance Awards Form (FAAAF)** found on the website <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/finaid.htm> plus **one (1) letter of intent of no more than 750 words**, and a **current resume** plus any **additional materials** (see specific awards for any additional requirements). In your letter of intent mention the name of each award for which you are applying and demonstrate how you meet each award's specific **non-financial need** criteria. **Applications will be accepted via email, regular mail, or in-person only.**

For questions about the MPA financial aid award application or award process, please contact: Erin Genia, Assistant MPA Director – Tribal Governance, at geniae@evergreen.edu or (360) 867-6202. For questions about the FAFSA, student loans or Evergreen Need Grants, please contact the Evergreen Financial Aid Office at (360) 867-6205.

For questions about the MPA program or the MPA admission process, contact the Assistant MPA Director for the applicable concentration: Public/Non-Profit Admin & Public Policy concentrations -- Randee Gibbons: gibbonsr@evergreen.edu or (360) 867-6554; Tribal concentration – Erin Genia: geniae@evergreen.edu or (360) 867-6202.

The Evergreen State College strongly encourages qualified persons of all races, ethnicities and sexual orientations; persons with disabilities; persons over 40; women; and Vietnam Era and disabled veterans to apply for MPA Scholarships and Financial Assistance Awards.

Instructions for the MPA Financial Assistance Awards Application Process

- ❑ **APPLY to the MPA PROGRAM:** For Applicants to the MPA Program, the priority deadline for Fall 2012 admissions is **February 15, 2012**. Aid is only awarded to applicants who are offered admission to the college.
- ❑ **SUBMIT FAFSA:** You can begin completing the 2012-13 FAFSA after January 1, 2012 **online**. Your completed 2012-13 FAFSA must be **received and processed by Thursday, March 1, 2012**. Due to potential federal processing delays, in order to maximize your chances of having a fully processed, complete FAFSA by March 1st **we strongly recommend that you complete your FAFSA by February 22nd**. Follow the instructions listed on the “Financial Aid for Graduate Students” page of the Evergreen Financial Aid website: http://www.evergreen.edu/financialaid/graduate_finaid.htm (in the link there is an underscore “_” between “graduate” and “finaid”) Note that Evergreen’s Title IV **school code is 008155**. A filed FAFSA is necessary to qualify for all federal student loans, all Evergreen Need Grants (grants distributed by the Financial Aid Office to a very limited number of students with the highest need) and all MPA financial assistance for which financial need is either a primary or secondary consideration (see award descriptions). Students whose FAFSAs are processed by March 1st will have their file reviewed in the first awarding cycle by the Financial Aid Office and will receive priority consideration for Evergreen Need Grants. The FAFSA **may** be submitted after March 1st, but financial aid eligibility after March 1st is much more likely to be limited to federal student loans. Note that using estimated 2011 tax information is acceptable to complete your FAFSA.
- ❑ **SUBMIT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS APPLICATION:** Completed applications must be received by MPA Office Assistant Jan Hays by 5pm on **Monday, March 19, 2012**. You have three options for submitting:
 1. Complete, print, sign and scan your FAAAF and attach to **ONE** email along with a letter of intent, resume, and letters of recommendation (if required) to Jay Hays, Office Assistant at haysj@evergreen.edu. You will receive a confirmation email by March 20th.
 2. Complete, print, sign and send your application packet via regular mail to the address listed on the FAAAF and page 1 of this packet.
 3. Complete, print, sign and deliver your application to Jan Hays in Lab 1 Room 3019.Your letter of intent must be addressed to the “MPA FA Selection Committee,” and must describe how you meet the non-need based criteria of each award for which you are applying. Be sure to indicate on the FAAAF which awards you would like to be considered for. Submitting the MPA FAAAF plus just **ONE** letter of intent and your resume is sufficient to apply for most awards – see award descriptions for exceptions. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Faxed materials will **not** be accepted.
- ❑ Notification of awards begins **at the end of April, 2012.**

Description of MPA Financial Assistance Awards

EVERGREEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GRADUATE AWARD

FAFSA is required

An award of \$1,000 will be awarded to one applicant.

Criteria:

- Primary consideration given to commitment to chosen field of study and reasons for selecting Evergreen for graduate study
- Using FAFSA info, secondary consideration will be given to financial need

GRADUATE ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP

FAFSA is required

Approximately \$6,500 will be distributed among several applicants.

Criteria:

- Using FAFSA info, primary consideration given to financial need.
- Secondary consideration given to students who demonstrate a commitment to continued intellectual and professional development.

JOHN WALKER SCHOLARSHIP

FAFSA is required

An award of \$400 is awarded to one female applicant, preference given to women of color and/or over thirty.

Criteria:

- Primary consideration given to demonstrated commitment to continued intellectual and professional development.
- Using FAFSA info, secondary consideration will be given to financial need.

SOULE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

FAFSA is required

An award of \$775 awarded to one MPA student.

Criteria:

- Applicant must have financial need.
- Secondary consideration is given to an applicant who is doing work in the field of environment or public health.

WORK/STUDY GRADUATE ASSISTANT AWARD

FAFSA is required

One or more positions will be awarded depending on availability of Work/Study funds, at a rate of \$12 per hour.

Graduate Assistant(s) will work with the MPA Program on a part time basis and will be assigned duties which may include the following: programmatic research, faculty and administrative support, student writing assistance and other duties as designated by the MPA Program. Work/Study funds come from the U.S. Department of Education, the State of Washington or The Evergreen State College.

Criteria:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills are required.
- Outstanding organizational skills are essential.

- Demonstrated academic excellence in public administration coursework and the ability to perform high quality research is sought.

AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD

FAFSA is NOT required as financial need is not considered

Up to one quarter of resident tuition.

Criteria:

- Demonstrated commitment to community service and explanation of how AmeriCorps and the Education Award have impacted your desire to attend graduate school.

Special requirement – letter of recommendation + additional information needed: In addition to the Letter of Intent, submit one (1) letter of recommendation, preferably from an AmeriCorps supervisor, supporting your application, and evidence of having completed one year of service and received the full AmeriCorps education award.

HEARST NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

FAFSA is NOT required as financial need is not considered

Approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 will be distributed to one or more applicants. First priority is given to Native American students in Evergreen's MIT (Master's in Teaching) or MEd (Master's of Education) programs. After funds are allocated to eligible MIT and MEd students, Native American students in other Evergreen graduate programs (MPA and MES) will be considered for any remaining funds.

Criteria:

- Primary consideration given to Native American students with a documented commitment to a Native American community and the education of Native American youth.
- Secondary consideration given to Native American students with a documented commitment to a Native American community.

Special requirement – additional information needed: Students **must** have a tribal affiliation to be eligible to apply. In your Letter of Intent, please state your tribal affiliation, as defined according to the federal standard below:

American Indian or Alaska Native

- A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- There are more than 500 federally recognized and non-recognized tribes residing in the continental U.S. This category refers to the following groups: American Indians, Aleuts, Alaska Eskimos (Inuits)

JUDGE FULLER GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

FAFSA is NOT required as financial need is not considered

Approximately \$1,300 will be awarded to an applicant who best demonstrates interest in one or more of the following areas:

Criteria:

- Describe how your previous volunteer or work experience; past, current or proposed course of study; and/or career goals in education, public policy, health, welfare, or the environment have benefited or intend to benefit young children living in or near poverty conditions. Explain clearly since the selection committee may not consist of specialists in your field.

All MPA students who submit the FAFSA will automatically be considered for the following Awards:
(No letter of intent is required)

EVERGREEN FOUNDATION GRADUATE AWARD

Approximately \$8,000 will be distributed among several applicants.

Criteria:

- Using FAFSA info, primary consideration given to financial need.

TUITION WAIVER - WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENT

Funds from twelve one quarter tuition waivers will be divided among several applicants who are Washington residents. To maximize our funds, each award is likely to amount to less than one quarter of tuition.

Criteria:

- Primary consideration given to students based on the strength of MPA application or demonstration of high potential within the program.
- Using FAFSA info, secondary consideration will be given to financial need.

TUITION WAIVER - NON-RESIDENT

Awarded to applicants who are out-of-state residents. To maximize our funds, each award is likely to amount to less than one quarter of tuition.

Criteria:

- Primary consideration given to students based on the strength of MPA application or demonstration of high potential within the program.
- Using FAFSA info, secondary consideration will be given to financial need

All MPA students will automatically be considered for the following Awards:
(No letter of intent or FAFSA is required)

MPA Merit Award

FAFSA is NOT required as financial need is not considered
One to three awards depending on available funding.

Criteria:

- Strength of MPA application or consistent excellence in MPA coursework.
- Financial need will not be considered.

MPA-TRIBAL GOVERNANCE MERIT AWARD

FAFSA is NOT required as financial need is not considered
One to three awards depending on available funding.

Criteria:

- Strength of MPA-Tribal Governance application or consistent excellence in MPA-Tribal Governance coursework.
- Financial need will not be considered.