

# MPA

## Graduate Program in Public Administration

The Evergreen State College's Graduate Program in Public Administration began in 1980. Commonly referred to as the MPA program, it leads to a Master of Public Administration degree. The program serves the needs of students who are preparing for or seeking advancement in a professional career in the public, non-profit or tribal sectors.

### Our Mission and Vision

- Preparing students to seek democratic, equitable, and practical solutions to public problems;
- Embedding issues of social justice, social change, and democratic governance throughout our program; and,
- Developing leaders who think analytically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively as they strive to make a difference in public service and their communities.

### MPA Students

There are many pathways to the MPA program and our students reflect that diversity. Most are currently employed at state, local or tribal governments or with non-profit organizations. Their work reflects the diversity of issues addressed by the public and non-profit sector, including: health, housing, education, corrections, women's shelters, youth, welfare, parks, land use, law enforcement, human resources, tribal governance and transportation. Their educational backgrounds are diverse too, including the arts, history, engineering, law enforcement, public health, literature, political science, and economics.

### Program Overview

The program consists of required programs, an area of concentration and electives, totaling 60 credit hours. Student work is evaluated through written narrative evaluations rather than grades. Learning experiences are highly participatory; significant in-class work occurs in small seminars. Courses typically meet in the evenings. Saturday classes or intensive formats will also be used. Students can pace their experience and finish the program in two to four years.

The MPA program is 60 credit-hours taught in a quarter schedule. It consists of:

- Core programs (24 credits)
- Concentration area (20 credits)
- Electives (12 credits)
- Capstone program (4 credits)

### Core Programs

Each class admitted in September will take the core programs as a group during their first two years. The first core program will be 12 credits (4 credits each quarter). This will be a team-taught program covering the foundations of public administration. The second core program will be taught in the second year of the program and will also be 12 credits, taught in the fall, winter and spring quarters. The second core will cover analytic concepts and techniques.

In addition, a 4-credit capstone course is required. This will be taken toward the end of each person's program as an experience that ties all the courses together.

### Concentrations

The MPA program offers several areas of concentration so students can tailor their learning to meet their particular requirements. The concentrations will comprise 20 credit hours. The concentrations are:

- Tribal Governance
- Public and Non-Profit Management
- Public Policy and Health Policy

Tribal Governance will be unique in its format. Students in this concentration will take the program as a cohort, taking the core as well as the concentration courses in a sequence. These courses will be offered in an intensive format periodically throughout each quarter enabling students to continue full-time employment. Some portions of the classes will be delivered at reservation sites.

### Electives

Electives broaden students' knowledge base and experience. Course offerings change each year. Students who plan to become policy analysts or pursue a doctorate may use some or all of their electives to complete a master's thesis.

### Internship

Some students may be required to complete an internship during the program. The internship can provide the student with visibility to prospective employers, give an overview of the public employment market in general, or give students upward mobility in their current employment.

Students have completed internships in such areas as the Department of Social and Health Services, the Office of the Consul of Chile for Washington state, and the King County Prosecutor's office.

### Applying to the MPA Program

To be considered for admission, students must meet the following requirements:

- have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (a waiver is possible)
- have completed the following college-level courses within five years of starting the program:
  - a. one course in statistics (4 credits)
  - b. one course in micro- and macroeconomics (4 credits)

For additional admission requirements and application materials, go to the MPA Web site: [www.evergreen.edu/mpa](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa)

## When to Apply

The MPA Admissions Committee begins reviewing completed applications on November 15 for next fall's admission. Since financial aid decisions are made by February 15, all applications should be completed by that date. Applications received after February 15 will be considered for fall admission if there are still spaces available.

## Financial Aid

A number of fellowships, assistantships, grants and loans are available. To ensure full consideration, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be submitted by February 15 for the year you plan to enroll. Information and application procedures are described in the catalog and on the Evergreen Web site: [www.evergreen.edu/financialaid](http://www.evergreen.edu/financialaid).

## Information

For an application, a graduate catalog, or more information about the program, please contact:

Graduate Studies Office, Lab I, Room 3019  
The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW  
Olympia, WA 98505  
[graduatestudies@evergreen.edu](mailto:graduatestudies@evergreen.edu)  
(360) 867-6707  
[www.evergreen.edu/mpa](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa)

## Other Graduate Programs at Evergreen

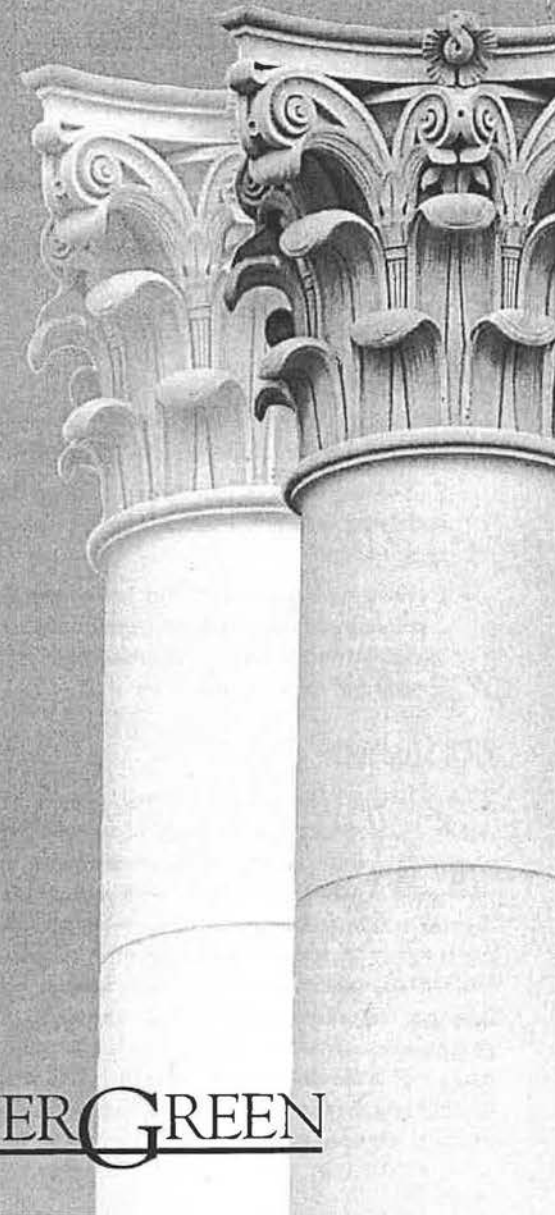
- Master of Environmental Studies–MES
- Master in Teaching (includes certification)–MIT

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