**MPA 2013 New Student Orientation Evaluation Results**

**What did you like best?**

Organization of event

One day, all day orientation (2 said this)

To see I wasn’t only person excited

Faculty intro panel (13 said this)

Alumni panel (19 said this)

Seminar (6 said this)

Financial aid helpful

Candid conversations

Meeting fellow students (3 said this)

Everyone was very receptive to personalized questions during QA segments

While I was late, cold, and wet, the staff made me feel warn and welcome upon arrival

Cheryl’s welcome message was inspiring

Feeling that faculty and staff truly want us to succeed and are there to help us!

Energy of Amy and Randee

Opportunity to meet the full faculty

MPA 101

Everything

**What could be IMPROVED and HOW, if you have ideas)?**

More breaks and maybe longer breaks

Shorter schedule but difficulty with so much to cover

MPA 101 seemed to be pretty long however there were a lot of questions in this section…

Seminars seemed too large

More substantial lunch

More breakfast snack options and more salad dressing options

Even more alumni!

More time for alumni panel

Introductions of staff

More time with introductions between the students (5)

More MPA 101

More meat in the salad

Getting to know you could be more structured with groups and time for questions

Clearer lead up to orientation

More seminar time

Better directions to orientation location

Show diversity of cohort

40 minute lunch in an 8 hour day too short

Air conditioning too cold

Information about internships and individual contracts

Fresh fruit and shorter financial aid session

Maybe an extra day—didn’t it used to be 3 days?

Have MPA 101 earlier in the day so faculty don’t have to answer the general questions

**What was MISSING that you would have liked?**

Would be willing to pay for better food

Gluten free breakfast and afternoon snacks

Ice cream

More student success stories of world changers

More description from faculty about their classes

An additional email about other things we need to know

More interaction with cohort

Options for those with disabilities

Basic info for those new to Evergreen—how to get id, library card etc

Fresh fruit

Heat in the lecture rooms

Potluck

More info on scholarships

Info on contracts and internships

Longer q and a with student/alumni panel

A complete list of courses offered for the next 2 years including summer

More ice breakers/forced conversation with peers would be good

More time to know cohort

**Other Comments**

More variety of decaf teas

Excellent presentation

Good and Relevant

Thanks!

Was nervous about decision initially but after all the faculty talk, I feel as if I can accomplish this, and will be supported in my endeavor

I think there should have been a few more 2nd year students in the student/alumni panel

I am so excited

More detail on individual program plans and what is beneficial through each plan…

Freezing cold in the rooms

Discuss choosing classes and how waitlists work

A lot was covered!

Great food, thank you

Everyone seems well-intentioned and thoughtful—thanks!

Good job—solidified my decision to be here!

**Questions about you**

**Was Evergreen your first choice as a graduate school? If no, please write in your first choice. If Evergreen was your only choice, why was it your only choice?**

No, applied and was accepted at Penn State. Chose TESC because of reputation and learning community

I previously went to graduate school at Simmon College for my MLIS, but for MPA it was my only choice as I am an Evergreen

 employee

Yes because it is awesome

I procrastinated too long to apply to the UW MPA, so the later application date was helpful. I wanted a program in the area

Only choice—didn’t want to travel to Tacoma or Seattle

Only choice---love the interdisciplinary hands on learning

Between MNPL program at Seattle U and here. I struggled to pick! Needed a night/weekend school

School for International Training (SIT)

UW Tacoma MSW program

Yes (8)

Yes location both geographically and in the state capital

No, University of Penn

First choice for MPA –I considered a few other degrees but this was the only program to which I applied

Only choice—BA from Evergreen, price and way classes are constructed

Yes, allows me to stay close to home and continue to work on campus as a student

Only choice—MPA program excellent reputation and it’s close and the night/weekend courses work for me

No, Harvard

Only choice. Have wanted to attend Evergreen MPA since moving here in 1994

No, UBC

No, Univ of Oregon, Master of Community and Regional Planning program was my first choice. I was accepted but couldn’t afford it

Yes, best fit for me

Yes, local, affordable and recommended by others in my work

Yes, approach to learning at Evergreen

First and Only

Yes, I knew how sought after TESC MPA grads are.

Yes, cost, curriculum & proximity

Yes, love group learning

Only choice because I work and live in Aberdeen

An on-campus option and could still keep my job

Yes—work in state gov and colleagues all speak highly of this program

Accepted also at University of Colorado at Denver—not an easy choice but I’m glad I’m here

Went to Tacoma for undergrad and knew this program would work for me again

**How did you first hear about Evergreen MPA program? What circumstances or event prompted you to apply when you did?**

Prof. Bob McIntosh was my mentor and pushed me towards the program

Attended Tacoma and heard about MPA (2)

Know many graduates and a few faculty. Waited for wife to earn her masters

Scouring internet mpa programs across the west

Doing public health policy and needed your credential!

Friends—good step before getting my PhD

Friend (3)

Alumni (2)

Heard about it as an undergrad here (6)

Through a colleague at work—want to do policy analysis and was told I needed a masters for that kind of work

TESC faculty encouraged me to apply(2)

Website

Marge Mahoric and Jerrod Sorger encouraged me to apply

Got job at ESA and thought it was time for MPA

Talking with community leaders who are Alumni

A friend, Tom Freemans who took MPA in early 90s

Co-workers

Graduate programs research on internet (3)

Friend recommended and I get to accept an internship with WA DNR

My mother-in-law who was an Evergreen grad

Rafael Lozano

Informational session with Randee

My mother has her MPA from Evergreen as do many of my friends. Timing was right for me to apply.

Heard about this program 10 years ago and am finally at a place where I can do it

Co-workers just finished 1st year and loved it.

Former Evergreen grad. Looked into both MPA and MIT at TESC and decided MPA first as I have more experience there

Online search when my partner from Minn came to do med residency at ST. Petes

Heard about program in late 90s but has taken me this long to get ready

Google search for MPA programs

Booth at grad fair at Seattle U and need a new challenge in my life

**Why are you pursuing an MPA (vs a different graduate degree)?**

Can use at my current/future positions

Interviewed for a director position at a historical society-- realized I needed more training in management/admin for the jobs I want

Interest in public service

Could see getting a MSW but the less touchy-feely nature of the MPA is good

Strong desire to serve in the public sector

Want to run a non-profit. As low income single mother I have much personal experience for how our social services are failing

Attain leadership skills as well as gain knowledge and experience in the public sector

I have a large passion to learn about non-profit leadership

Spent time researching and observing different NGOs both local and abroad and loved the work and results. I felt that’s where I belong

Want to be a public servant and understand policies and why they are implemented

Non-profit management

MPA closely related with what I’m doing now

MPA will give me lateral flexibility in employment and provide me with skills to be an exceptional administrator

My job is political plus I feel it’s necessary to educate citizens

Looking for credentials to go with my 30 years of business management experience

A stepping stone for PhD in related field

Reward of helping others

Want to return to the non-profit sector

Passionate about public policy, specifically environmental policy

Want to specialize in education policy

To progress to a new career and use skills I’ve not used in my current position

I want to be an ED executive director

Sharpen and add to my skill set

Can see myself ending up at PRIDE or working towards rights for LGBT individuals

I work in the non profit sector and volunteer on several nonprofit boards—MPA makes sense for my professional development

Versatility and can make changes where it is needed in policy

Content is a broad overlay applicable to many areas I’m interested in—been in non profit sector for 20 years

In public service and intend to stay there

Enriches my career path

Sounded like best fit

This is my field

Public policy affects everyone

I want to change the way government runs—innovation instead of managing

**Other info/comments**

On a personal level, thank you again for letting me be a part of your group while I was feeling ill. I appreciate your concern and comfort.

Seminar—good coverage of rules. In past I have seen seminar turning into a free-for-all which is not productive

I am excited and anxious to have earned this opportunity to join Evergreen’s incredible MPA alumni!

Thank you

It is exciting, encouraging and perhaps intimidating to have so many students in the program with extended public service experience

So glad we had the orientation—very helpful and also glad it was just one day…

Good first day. Looking forward to the year

Am really looking forward to the program

I’m happy to be here

I’m thrilled to be a part of this program

Very much looking forward to the next 2 years here

Great first day overall

I am very impressed thus far

I really like the cohort model. To me it means both a support system and a familiarity of people in core classes