**Tacoma Orientation Survey Summary**

(*Created by Stacey Isaacs*)

[\*Small response count varies between 4 – 9; responses collected between 10/14-21/2019; Summary completed 10/22/2019]

***Special note:***  *I couldn’t download the actual survey (unless I agree to pay for those services); the responses listed below were taken directly from the survey*

**Meet & Greet:**

3 somewhat helpful

1 very helpful

4 extremely helpful

\**Comment:*

Getting to meet our classroom peers and teachers, learning about Evergreen, Puanani’s information and interaction.

\**Comment:*

Getting know and engage with my student peers was my favorite part of the day. I recommend keeping that ‘Meet & Greet’ activity for future orientations. I also appreciated the honesty of our instructors as a whole, especially around the newness of the program (building the plane as we’re flying it).

\**Comment:*

I enjoyed getting to know people in my cohort.

**MPA directors opening remarks**

1 not so helpful

2 somewhat helpful

2 very helpful

4 extremely helpful

**What is a learning community?**

1 not so helpful

4 somewhat helpful

2 very helpful

3 extremely helpful

\**Comment* I liked the chance to get to know people, the ice breakers.

\**Comment*:

I appreciated Lianna’s introductory comments that helped allay, at least for now, the fears of entering a complete unknown. The ice breaker exercise during which we had snippets of opportunity to meet our cohort met its goal. I would have enjoyed a longer or another of these exercises, and/or a longer or second LTC (with actual reading to discuss).

**Learning through Discussion**

2 not so helpful

3 somewhat helpful

3 very helpful

1 extremely helpful

**Lunch & ID’s**

1 not at all helpful

5 somewhat helpful

1 very helpful

2 extremely helpful

\**Comment:*

Free lunch was a nice touch, everyone absolutely was lovely about answering questions in advance and assisting with logistics as needed.

\**Comment:*

I didn’t enjoy the boxed lunches, but I know its good option for a variety of different dietary needs.

\**Comment:* Thank you for providing lunch

**MPA 101**

1 not so helpful

1 somewhat helpful

4 very helpful

2 extremely helpful

\**Comment:*

MPA 101 would be a good as an online Canvas resources. It was important tho’ to hear the emphasis on using Canvas as our main source of MPA info. Much of the information was recap for me given my many conversations with Puanani these last few months!

**Alumni Panel**

3 somewhat helpful

1 very helpful

5 extremely helpful

\**Comment:* Alumni Panel, their experiences helped me not panic as much as I had earlier.

\**Comment:*

Though I appreciated the insight that each of the alumni panelist brought, I think it’s important to set expectation/community norms with the panelist prior to beginning. While trying to maintain the ‘cone of silence’, I’d share that one panelist bragged about being the reason someone was fired and it was off-putting. Beyond that, I found tremendous value in the alumni panel and appreciated that the staff and instructors left the room to provide full transparency from the panel.

\**Comment:*

I really liked having the alumni panel discuss their personal experiences and obstacles they endured.

**Canvas & Assessment**

6 somewhat helpful

2 very helpful

1 extremely helpful

**Overall rating**

2 somewhat helpful

5 very helpful

1 extremely helpful

**What could be improved (**any suggestions**)?**

\**Comment:*

More concrete content/structure for what to expect in the course. More interaction with teachers and students. More resources, access or information on what Evergreen has to offer, especially for Tacoma-specifics.

\**Comment:*

It would have been nice to have the time for all student mpa orientation instead of just the date.

\**Comment:*

It felt very long. There were opportunities to get up and talk to each other, I liked those. Maybe more structured movement? I struggle to sit for so long.

\**Comment*:

More structure. More interactive activities and introductions. More concrete information on resources and expectation.

\**Comment*:

It would have been nice to have the orientation be half the day/time it took

\**Comment:*

It may be helpful in the future to have a section in which we do a deeper dive into a text and practice how to seminar. Coming from an undergrad that wasn’t at Evergreen, I think it’d be valuable to practice that before the first day of class.

\**Comment:*

I would have liked to see more time spent on going over the entire 2-year program and what the courses entail. A tour of the building would have been nice, and an introduction to the staff at the front desk would be great since it’s a smaller location.

\**Comment:*

I think I will be in a better position to comment on this after school begins! Essentially though, the main benefit of orientation was breaking the ice and beginning to meet everyone to temper some of those first night jitters.

\**Comment:*

I would’ve wanted further explanation on the first assignment.

**How did you first hear about the Evergreen MPA program?**

\**Comments:*

* My partner and researching local MPA programs
* Alumni from the WA legislative staff
* Several MPA students/grads that have served as mentors to me encouraged me to apply
* Googled public policy programs
* Friends who attended the Olympia campus program
* A friend that just finished the program
* Two wonderful individuals with whom I have had the pleasure of working are both Evergreen MPA alumni. The first VISTA intern I supervised decided to apply to Evergreen MPA during her service year with my agency (and me), and I enjoyed supporting and observing her progress during the first year of school (we hired her after her VISTA service term ended). In my community work, I was fortunate to meet and collaborate with an executive director of a youth-related non-profit collaboration. I have always been impressed by this alum’s ability to synthesize complex information, communicate effectively, and professionally lead all aspects of non-profit management. Both of these individuals attribute much of their success and professional network to the Evergreen MPA program.
* A classmate told me about the program.

**Other comments**

* Thank you for all your work!
* Thanks for the food, would have been nice to know lunch was provided for the in advance!
* I was very happy with the orientation. It helped to relieve some stress for the much anticipated MPA Tacoma cohort. The professors had great ice breakers to get us to interact with new members of our cohort. Puanani did an amazing job and exceeded my expectations.