**MPA Hooding Ceremony 2020**

The 2020 Master of Public Administration hooding ceremony will take place on Friday, June 12th at 10:00 am. This ceremony officially confers upon you the academic hood, an item of academic regalia that symbolizes the high degree of scholarship one has attained with the completion of a masters degree. Once it has been conferred, you are entitled to wear the hood as part of your academic dress in graduation and other collegiate ceremonies. Masters of Public Administration hoods are distinguished from those of other degrees by their peacock blue trim.

In order to respect the efforts we are all making to protect public health and safety, this year’s hooding ceremony will take place in a virtual format. You, your friends, and family are invited to participate from your homes in this ceremony via a webcast platform. As is tradition, our ceremony will include presentations by honored guests and selected students. We will then recognize each graduate individually and, in turn, invite them or a member of their stay-at-home family to place the hood on their shoulders. We invite and encourage graduates to share a live webcam feed from their home while they are being hooded so that so that we can all celebrate this achievement together. The MPA program will host a special reception in spring 2021 for our spring 2020 graduates and their family and friends to honor their accomplishments. In addition, students who wish to experience the in-person version of the hooding ceremony are invited to participate in our spring 2021 hooding ceremony.

The MPA program is collaborating with the planning committee for Evergreen’s 2020 graduation ceremony on the technology we will use to host your hooding ceremony. You will receive more information about this platform in the coming weeks and we will also post updates to this webpage.

Regalia (Cap, Hood, and Gown) [PERHAPS HOLD OFF ON PUTTING THIS SECTION IN UNTIL WE KNOW FOR SURE WHAT THE COLLEGE WILL PROVIDE].

The MPA graduation regalia includes a cap, gown, hood, and tassel. Wearing graduation regalia is optional, for both the Hooding Ceremony and Evergreen’s Commencement ceremony. The Evergreen State College will provide mortar boards and tassels mailed to your home. Additional regalia and other graduation items (invitations, diploma holders, etc.) should be ordered through the Evergreen Bookstore.

MPA has some regalia (limited caps/gowns & hoods) that graduates can borrow for the day. If you would like to borrow regalia, email Dhara Katz, MPA Program Assistant. Borrowed items are expected to be mailed back to the MPA program office soon after graduation day or may be returned in person once social-distancing practices permit this.

Graduation Requirements

To participate in the MPA Hooding Ceremony and/or the Commencement Ceremony in June, you must be on track to complete a minimum of 46 graduate credits—​including Capstone—by the end of the Spring 2020 quarter. You do not have to complete all required 60 credits to participate in these ceremonies. However, you will not receive your diploma—and officially graduate—until you have completed all of your credit requirements. You can also opt to wait until you have completed all MPA coursework and requirements to participate in Hooding and/or Commencement.

To have your degree officially awarded you need to complete 60 credits and all MPA degree requirements by the end of the quarter you wish to graduate. Apply to graduate by submitting the application and paying the $40 fee listed on the Apply to Graduate page.

Submitting your graduation application insures that your name will be printed in the Hooding and Commencement Ceremony programs, and begins the process of confirming your credits and awarding your degree. On the form you must specify which quarter you expect to complete your 60 credits for the MPA degree.

Your diploma will be mailed to you once all of your final evaluations have been filed and your credits posted. This process could take several weeks, so expect your diploma after you have completed all graduation requirements, and they have been processed.

If you plan to participate in the MPA Hooding Ceremony, please RSVP here.