Hello Fall2018InfoSessionAttendee --

Thank you for attending the MPA info session last night! What did you think? I hope it was useful – please don’t hesitate to contact me with any further questions you may have.

First, here’s a link to [last year’s best Capstone presentations](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/profiles.htm) -- this will help you get a better sense of the kinds of things you will be able to do with your MPA: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/profiles.htm>

***Some next steps:***

* ***Visit one night of 1st Year Core and see for yourself what the Evergreen MPA program is like --  just \*2\* more opportunities until October: Thursdays, May 25 or June 1, at 6 pm***

1st Year Core is a 3 quarter course that begins in the Fall and continues through Winter and Spring quarters. Like all Core courses, it meets on Thursday nights from 6-10pm.

* + - **In Spring 2017**, the 1st Year Core course is called “***Public Policy, Finance and Budgeting for Public Administration”***
		- **Class location**: Seminar 2 building complex, “D” building, Room D1105 (or “Sem2 D1105” for short)
		- ***No need to RSVP -- just show up!*** For details, see “Visit a Class” on our Information Sessions page: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm>.
		- See the MPA Course Syllabi page for the course syllabus: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi>
* ***If you have your BA: get a head start on your MPA and take up to 12 elective credits \*before\* admission – Summer registration begins on Tuesday, May 30.***

**You don’t have to wait**: if you have your bachelor’s degree you can “test drive” our program: **up to 12 credits of MPA elective courses** taken before the Fall quarter of admissionwill count toward your MPA.

* Non-admitted graduate special students may typically begin registering for open MPA elective courses a week before the quarter begins, on a space-available basis and with instructor permission.
	+ **Summer 2017 registration** begins **Tuesday, May 30** – see the updated MPA Summer info page by May 15: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/summer-registration>
		- **2016-17 MPA Course Catalog – scroll down to the “Electives” section**: <http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/grad/mpa>
	+ **Fall 2017** registration begins Monday, September 18 – see the updated Fall registration info by May 15: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/reginfo.htm>
		- **2017-18 MPA Course Catalog – scroll down to the “Electives” section**: <http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/grad/mpa?field_academic_year_value_2=2>
* The cost per credit for tuition & fees is about $340, so the tuition cost of a 2 credit elective course is about $680.
* Note that non-admitted students are \***not**\* eligible for financial assistance through Evergreen, such as scholarship aid or the Federal loan program
* ***Keep informed*** about MPA by [following us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenMPA)
* ***Meet with me, in person or by phone.***  I’d be happy to talk with you about our program: I make ½ hour in-person or phone appointments with prospective students. Through June, our focus is on advising newly admitted Fall 2017 students and graduation. Beginning in July, I will be available again for appointments with prospective students: in mid-June, feel welcome to email me with a few upcoming dates and times that would work for you.
* ***Take a look at our*** [***course offerings***](http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2014-15/mpa/index.htm) ***and*** [***course syllabi***](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi.htm)***:*** look at course titles, descriptions, schedules, booklists, assignments, etc. Do they interest you? Do they make you excited to learn more?

***Fall 2018 admission info:***

* We begin accepting applications on **October 2, 2017**.
* Consideration is \***guaranteed**\* for applications with \***all**\* materials in (online application with attachments + all official transcripts + both recommendations) by our priority deadline of **February 1, 2018.**
* Students begin the MPA program once a year, every Fall -- **as a learning community or “cohort” of about 50-55 students.**
* **Application and admission requirements info** – updated info will be posted by September 2017: [**http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm**](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm)
* **Re: financial aid:**
* The vast majority of students admitted to the MPA program are eligible for some form of financial aid. Financial Aid resources include: federal student loans, scholarships, tuition waivers and work study. Applying for financial aid is a two-step process:
* To qualify for federal student loans and MPA aid with a need component, **submit the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – available after October 1, 2016 -- by the \***recommended**\* date of **January 15**: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. This will maximize your chances of meeting Evergreen's priority date for receiving complete and valid information back from FAFSA, ***which is February 1, 2018.***
* For MPA-sponsored financial assistance opportunities (scholarships, tuition waivers, etc.): the **deadline** for submission **MPA Financial Aid Awards Application Form is to be determined.** 2017-18 information about MPA scholarships and other funding opportunities is on our Costs & Aid page at:<http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/costs.htm>

*Some* ***key points about the application*** *that may be helpful:*

**Re: the public policy essay** – if you wish, **you can use previous work** that you have done: you \***don’t**\* have to start from scratch!

* You can use all or part of a paper or research that you have previously done -- for a class, at work, etc. – as a foundation for your essay. Just be sure that the essay meets the requirements listed requirements: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm>.
* We’ve also **posted some good policy essay examples** on the MPA Application and Requirements page – just scroll down to the section about writing a public policy essay: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm>

**Re: statistics prerequisite** – apply now and complete statistics \***after**\* admission: you can go ahead and apply and be accepted \***without**\* having the required statistics credit!

* Before Fall 2018 begins, all admitted students must have completed a preapproved introductory statistics course that meets our prerequisite requirements with a grade of "C" or better within the past three (3) years of the Fall of admission. This means that you may apply and be admitted conditionally without having taken statistics and that you can complete statistics as late as the summer before you begin the MPA program in the Fall.
* You have until **September 15** to show completion of the required statistics credits.
* And, there are lots of options – you can take the course here at Evergreen, at a local community or four-year college, or online. For more information, ***including info about a $147 online statistics course option***: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/statistics.htm>

***Quick review…why get your MPA at Evergreen?***

* **Convenient:***designed for working adults -- keep your day job, go part-time or full-time and* ***get your MPA in as little as 2 years***
	+ Entirely an evening and weekend program:
		- Just \***one**\* required evening per week to take Core courses -- **Thursday nights** from 6-10pm
		- Electives typically meet on another weeknight or just 1 or 2 weekends \***per quarter**\*
	+ Full-time (2 years) or part-time (typically 3-4 years) options
	+ Typical full time class schedule: **Thursdays from 6-10pm + 1 or 2 weekends each quarter**
	+ Format enables students to commute from all over the area
	+ The program is filled with working adults who bring their valuable professional experience and connections into the classroom
* **Passionate students and successful graduates**: Our students are **passionate about working for the public good** -- typically in government at all levels (federal, state, local, tribal) and nonprofits -- and they join us because they want:
* **to gain the necessary** skills, knowledge and hands-on experience to do the work that they really care about;
* **to** **move up** into policy, management and executive positions; and
* **a secure foundation** so they have the flexibility to move around and do many different kinds of work in the policy/nonprofit/ public administration fields, as their interests change and their skills evolve throughout their career.

We have **hundreds of successful graduates working in a wide variety of responsible positions** within state, local, tribal and federal governments, education, nonprofit organizations, advocacy organizations, and private industry – see our “Students and Graduates” page for more info: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/profiles.htm>

* **Affordable:** **1/2 the cost of other local MPA programs**
	+ A **bargain** for Washington State residents **at about $20,000 for tuition and fees for the \*entire\* degree =** less than **\*one-half\* the tuition and fees of an MPA at UW or Seattle U**
	+ For **resident students, tuition & fees cost per credit** is about **$340**
	+ For **non-resident** students**, less than average costs:** <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/costs.htm>
	+ Our format allows you to **work during the day** and help pay for the program as you complete it! (as most of our students do)
	+ The vast majority of MPA students are eligible for one or more forms of financial aid, including: federal student loans, scholarships, tuition waivers and work study: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/costs.htm>
	+ **Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** to qualify for any MPA-sponsored aid with a need component and federal student loans. Follow the process on the [Financial Aid website](http://www.evergreen.edu/financialaid/apply). The FAFSA can be completed beginning October 1; **January 15** is the recommended completion date so Evergreen receives your data from the federal processor by February 1.
* **Evergreen’s unique, innovative learning environment**:
	+ **Interdisciplinary faculty teams** teach Core courses -- effectively address the complexity of contemporary public problems
	+ **Seminar based learning**: students actively participate in and learn to facilitate engaged and thoughtful discussions encompassing diverse views
	+ **Cohort model**: students move through Core coursework with their “cohort” of 50-55 students, forming strong friendships and professional relationships. Students learn as much from their fellow students as from their faculty, due to considerable diversity in age (from 20s-60s), work experience (from recent college grads through seasoned managers), cultural/socioeconomic background, interests and career aspirations. Consequently, our students tell us that they’ve learned as much from their fellow students as from their faculty, and have come out of the program with many colleagues and friends that they will have for the rest of their lives.
	+ **Small class size** (15 to 20 students per faculty member)
	+ **Narrative evaluations** to assess learning in credit/no credit courses
* **You’ll study the** **critical elements of public service and administration so you can advance your public/nonprofit sector career**
	+ MPA coursework includes: budgeting, strategic thinking/planning, human resources and information systems, public law, leadership and ethics, multicultural competencies, political and policy analyses and research methods. ***Check out the Spring 2017 quarter 1st year Core syllabus*** *(course name is “Public Policy, Finance and Budgeting for Public Administration”)*: <http://www.evergreen.edu/sites/default/files/Spring%20Syllabus%20PNAPP%202017%20updated%203.16.pdf>
	+ Our alumni report that the most highly valued skills acquired through the Evergreen MPA program were: collaboration, critical thinking, analysis and communication skills.
	+ Check out our Program Overview page for more info: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/program.htm>
	+ For info about the kinds of careers that the MPA will prepare you for, the Public Service Careers webpage can be very helpful: <http://publicservicecareers.org/career-resources/employment-salary-trend/>
* **Located in Olympia, the state capital** = seat of state government agencies and the Legislature
	+ Students can easily connect to jobs, projects and internships that are in our “backyard”
	+ In addition to teaching, many faculty also work in upper levels of government and nonprofit organizations
	+ Hundreds of alumni work locally and provide valuable connections to jobs and internships
* **A national reputation:** Washington Monthly ranks Evergreen among the top master’s colleges in the nation. Their distinctive rating asks “what are colleges doing for the country?” and ranks Evergreen 8 in the nation among master’s degree colleges for 2016–17 Academic Year.
* **Flexible degree requirements allow you to customize your MPA degree**! Our program offers students a lot of flexibility and opportunity to gear their degree toward their field(s) of interest, including taking up to 24 elective credits in multiple interest areas; up to **12 credits can be taken as a combination of independent study and internships**!
* **Our deep commitment to democratic and socially just public service**: We want our graduates to be thoroughly engaged public servants who actively work toward ameliorating inequalities and inequities in their organizations and communities, and we design and deliver our program with this in mind.
* **Generous transfer policy**: transfer up to \***12**\* graduate credits from another institution and complete your MPA here!

Finally…feel welcome to contact me, anytime, with any questions you may have, at gibbonsr@evergreen.edu or 360-867-6554.

**Thanks again for your interest in Evergreen MPA – we look forward to reading your Fall 2018 application!**