Here is some detailed information about our program that I hope will be helpful to you.

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, as their interests change and their skills evolve throughout their career.

***Admission Info:***

* Students begin the MPA program once a year, every Fall -- **as a learning community or “cohort” of about 50-55 students.**
* We are closed for Fall 2017 admission and are no longer accepting applications.
* We expect to begin accepting **Fall 2018** applications on October 1, 2017, with a likely **priority application deadline --** for guaranteed **first** consideration **-- on February 1, 2018.**
* Application and admission requirements info (Fall 2018 info will be posted by September 2017): <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/apply.htm>

***To find out more about the program:***

* Check out some of our [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>
* [Visit one night of class **beginning Thursday, April 13**](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm) – also see details below
* [Take a Spring quarter elective](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/reginfo.htm) (for folks who already have a BA: these credits will count toward your MPA!)
* [Attend our next group info session on Wednesday, May 24](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm)

***Top reasons to 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: evening classes meet just **\*one\*** weeknight per week
		- Core courses meet on 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 schedule: **Thursdays from 6-10pm + 1 or 2 weekends each quarter**
	+ Format enables students to commute from all over the area
	+ The program is packed with working adults who bring their valuable professional experience and connections into the classroom
* **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 Winter 2017 quarter 1st year Core syllabus*** *(course name is “Doing Democratic Public Administration”)*: <http://www.evergreen.edu/sites/default/files/Finalsyllabusdoingdemocraticpawinter2017core.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>
* **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
* **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**!
* **Hundreds of our graduates are 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>
* **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!
* **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 29 in the nation among master’s degree colleges for 2012–13 Academic Year. And, Evergreen earned accolades as among the nation's Top Public Affairs Graduate Schools in the 2012 edition of the Best Graduate Schools by US News Media Group: <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-public-affairs-schools/the-evergreen-state-college-235167>

**To find out more about our program:**

* ***Attend our next MPA group info session* -- Wednesday, May 24th from 5:30-6:30 pm at the \*downtown\* Olympia Timberland Library** (@ 8th and Franklin):<http://www.trlib.org/Locations/Pages/LibraryInformation.aspx?lib=ol>. I'll be there to discuss our curriculum, admissions requirements, program costs, financial aid, and to answer any questions you have. **No need to RSVP — just show up.** FYI our next information session will be in July, date to be determined in June. Can’t make this info session? See our [Information Sessions page](http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/infosessions.htm) for other upcoming dates.
* ***If you have your BA: get a head start on your MPA and take up to 12 elective credits \*before\* admission.* 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.
	+ **Spring 2017 registration** begins **Monday, March 27**: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/reginfo.htm>
		- **2016-17 MPA Course Catalog – scroll down to the “Electives” section**: <http://www.evergreen.edu/catalog/2016-17/mpa/index.htm>
* 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
* ***Visit one night of 1st Year Core – meets Thursdays from 6-10pm – and see for yourself what the Evergreen MPA program is like.*** 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***”, and you can visit **any Thursday night from April 13th through June 1st.**
		- **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>.
		- Beginning March 28th, see the MPA Course Syllabi page for the course syllabus: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi>
* ***Keep informed*** about MPA by [following us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EvergreenMPA)
* ***Contact MPA faculty member Amy Gould*** to discuss the program and the curriculum from a faculty perspective, at goulda@evergreen.edu
* ***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?

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!**