

# Master of Environmental Studies

## MES Students and Graduates

Students come to the MES program from diverse backgrounds, with diverse goals, and at widely varying stages in their careers. All classes meet in the evenings, with occasional Saturday field trips, to accommodate those working during the day. The program is intended to serve students who are, or aspire to be, environmental policy makers and program managers in government, non-profit organizations, and industry. It also serves teachers, writers, film makers, policy analysts and others who seek to understand how our environmental crisis has come about and what to do about it.



## Curriculum

The **core curriculum** consists of four eight-credit, team-taught courses offered in sequence. The first of these, *Political, Economic and Ecological Processes*, establishes a broad framework for understanding environmental issues. It emphasizes a critical analysis of the major social structures and institutions—the international economy, liberal democracy, and science—that shape environmental problems and policy responses to them. In developing this analysis, the program helps students recognize the connections between environmental issues and issues of socio-economic, gender and racial justice, in local, national and international contexts. The second core course applies this critical perspective in its examination of *Population, Energy, and Resources*.

The last two core courses—*Quantitative Analysis for the Public Sector*, and *Case Studies: Environmental Assessment and Policy Management*—shift from the development of a broad analytical framework to concrete skills development and environmental problem solving.

## Graduates

of the MES Program find work opportunities in various settings. Examples of positions currently held by our alumni:

- Environmental affairs analyst for a public utility;
- Wildlife biologist for a state agency;
- Field director of historic restorations for a private archeology firm;
- Data base manager for a state environmental agency;
- Environmental law student;
- College instructor and private consultant;
- Grants manager for a state water quality program;
- High school teacher.



Four-credit **Electives** comprise an important opportunity for students to develop their skills and knowledge in more specialized areas. Elective offerings include *Environmental Policy*, *Natural Resource Economics*, *Environmental Management*, *Wetlands Ecology*, *Hydrology*, *Restoration Ecology*, *Conservation Biology*, *Forest Ecology*, *Salmonid Ecology*, *Environmental History*, and *Environmental Philosophy and Ethics*. Students may also request to transfer up to twelve graduate credits from other institutions (including those in western Washington, enabling a broader selection). **Internships**, which can earn up to eight elective credits, provide important opportunities for specialization and experiential learning. Internships can ease entry into permanent jobs.

A required **Thesis Project**, either eight or sixteen credits, enables intensive concentration on a single topic of concern to each student. With the eight-credit option, students write an “essay of distinction” in the context of a two-quarter workshop. Students selecting this option must complete 32 credits of electives.

The other option is an independent sixteen-credit thesis, accompanied by 24 elective credits. Altogether, the program requires completion of 72 credits. Part-time students can complete the program in nine quarters while full-time students may complete it in as few as six.



## How and When to Apply

Students begin the core sequence Fall Quarter, which starts in mid-September. The program admits 30-35 students each year. Before enrolling, students must have coursework or work experience in both the social and natural sciences.

Prospective students must apply for admission well in advance. While applications are accepted from September 1 of the previous year until late May, it is best to complete the application during January and February. The deadline for early admission is March 15. The state of Washington requires that applicants take the Graduate Record Examination and maintain a 3.0 GPA for the last two years of undergraduate work, although admission decisions give greater weight to a student's overall background, his or her application essay, and letters of recommendation. Each year the program admits a limited number of qualified students with an undergraduate GPA lower than 3.0.

### Financial Aid

Limited financial aid is available. The *Graduate Catalog* provides a Summary of Graduate Financial Aid, including detailed financial aid application procedures. Some forms of aid require application by February 15.

### Information

For an application and a *Graduate Catalog*, call or write:

The Office of Admissions  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA 98505  
(206) 866-6000, ext. 6170

# Master of

## MES at Evergreen

# Environmental

The Evergreen  
State College

## What's Special About The Evergreen State College?

Evergreen offers a unique approach to liberal arts education with its central commitment to interdisciplinary, multicultural, cooperative learning. Students receive narrative evaluations rather than grades and have abundant opportunity to initiate independent or group projects and courses. All courses in the graduate core curriculum are team-taught by faculty from different disciplines.

## MES at Evergreen

The Graduate Program in Environmental Studies Program at Evergreen was founded in 1984 to offer an exciting, politically relevant and public policy oriented alternative to environmental science graduate programs. The program distinguishes itself by its emphasis on understanding the natural science aspects of environmental issues within their social, political and historical contexts.



## Faculty

The faculty who teach in the Environmental Studies Graduate Program have diverse expertise and interests but share a common commitment to interdisciplinary environmental education and effective team-teaching. Many of the faculty are also practitioners in the fields of environmental policy and management, and environmental science. The faculty represent all the major natural and social science and humanities disciplines that are relevant to a full understanding of environmental issues.

# Studies