

## Joint MES/MPA Degree at The Evergreen State College

Starting in the Fall of 2006, the Master in Environmental Study and Master in Public Administration Programs at The Evergreen State College began offering a combined MES/MPA Degree. This joint program is designed both for environmental professionals who wish to improve their administrative skills and for public administrators and public policy professionals who want to gain expertise in the analysis of environmental issues.

### Curriculum Guidelines

- Students must complete a total of 96 credits in both programs to obtain the degree, including core coursework and electives in both programs.
- Electives should be approximately equally divided between MES and MPA. If a student is in the MPA-Tribal program, s/he must take five MPA-tribal concentration courses. The MPA and MES Directors must approve students' educational plans for elective work.
- All joint-degree students are required to complete an 8- or 16-credit MES Thesis instead of the MPA Capstone or thesis. The MES/MPA thesis prospectus requires approval by both the MPA and MES Directors.
- Students may choose either the MES or MPA research methods/design programs in the MES or MPA core. The MES research course would be the spring, first-year, 8-credit course, "Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis for Environmental Studies." The MPA research program that could be chosen instead is the year-long, second year MPA Core, Analytical Techniques for Public Service (3, 4 credit courses). If a student emphasizes Public Policy in the MPA program, s/he must also take the Advanced Research Methods and the Foundations of Public Policy courses.
- Two alternative ways to schedule courses would be as follows:
  - A. If selecting MES research methods course work
    - First. MPA first-year core (fall, winter, spring quarters) + electives from either program
    - Second. MES first-year core (fall, winter, spring quarters) + electives/internships/independent study through either program
    - Third. Fourth MES core course (fall quarter) + MES thesis + remaining coursework
  - B. If selecting MPA methods course work
    - First. MPA first-year core (fall, winter, spring quarters) + electives from either program
    - Second. MES first-year core (fall, winter ) + electives/internships/independent study through either program
    - Third. MPA second-year core (fall, winter, spring quarters) + electives/internships/independent study through either program
    - Fourth. Fourth MES core course (fall quarter) + MES thesis + electives/internships/independent study, as needed

### Admission to Joint-Degree Program

**NEW STUDENTS:** New students must have completed all prerequisites for both programs to be admitted. The MES application form should be used, with clear indication on the application of the intent to apply for the joint degree. Applications are due March 1 and admissions decisions will be made by mid-April each year.

**ALREADY ENROLLED STUDENTS:** Students already enrolled in either program may apply for admission into the joint-degree program, provided that they will have completed no more than 52 credits prior to entering the joint-degree program. Current MES or MPA students can apply by providing the following to JT Austin, JD, Assistant Director & Resource Faculty, MES (TESC, Lab I, 3022, Olympia, WA 98505; [austinj@evergreen.edu](mailto:austinj@evergreen.edu)):

- 1) an updated personal statement explaining the reasons for wanting to earn the joint degree;
- 2) an updated academic plan outlining their intended path through the program;
- 3) transcripts; and
- 4) two letters of recommendation from faculty in the graduate program in which the student is enrolled at the time of application.

After submitting these documents, a meeting between the applicant and the program directors will follow to discuss, in part, the advisability of entering the joint program.

For further information, please contact one of the following persons:

- J.T. Austin, JD, Assistant Director & Resource Faculty, MES at 360-867-6225 or [austinj@evergreen.edu](mailto:austinj@evergreen.edu).