

Model: School for Graduate and Professional Studies

Needs Analysis: Like The Evergreen State College itself, Washington faces significant questions about its future. Some of these challenges stand out for their effect on equity and overall well-being in our region and the state as a whole:

- 1) *Equity in educational opportunities and outcomes:* Though Washington state is a national leader in higher education (ranked 2nd in the nation after Florida by US News and World Report in 2019), it is very much in the middle of the pack in overall quality of K-12 education (ranked 19th in 2019). An important set of factors limiting Washington State's K-12 education performance are persistent racial, ethnic, and income disparities in educational opportunity and outcomes.
- 2) *Persistent environmental and related health inequities:* Like most of the United States, significant and persistent racial, ethnic, and income disparities exist in health and access to healthcare in Washington. A 2010 report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities particularly noted racial and income disparities in infant mortality, exposure to pollutants, and occupational health that are related to environmental quality (Washington Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities 2010). The Washington Tracking Network's Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map indicates significant differences across Washington Census tracts in social vulnerability to environmental and natural disaster hazards, particularly in rural Washington and in lower income urban core neighborhoods.
- 3) *Unequal opportunities for leadership and service.* At the same time, evidence suggests that many Washingtonians remain under-represented in the process for addressing these problems. Notably, women, African-Americans and Latinos are under-represented in Washington's state legislature. Though Washington's non-White or Hispanic population is 32%, people of color occupy only 9% of the seats in the state legislature. And though Washington is one of the leading states for female representation, still women only occupy one-third of the state legislature's seats. (National Conference of State Legislatures 2015)

These data indicate a need for sustained teaching, research, and public service to understand the causes of social and economic inequalities, evaluate relevant policies, and develop policy solutions. In addition, these inequities point to significant gaps in capacity to address these problems in the community and the absence of important voices in the process of developing solutions. Evergreen's mission to support "local and global commitment to social justice, diversity, environmental stewardship and service in the public interest" speaks to its obligations as a public institution of higher education to respond to these needs. The profile of Evergreen's graduate student body indicates that it is especially important that an Evergreen graduate school address the needs of economically vulnerable students, first generation college students, students of color, and students who are women.

Mission and Approach: To better fill this need for graduate-level academic programs that address the social and economic needs of the state and that particularly seek to welcome students who have traditionally been under-served by higher education programs, we recommend the creation of an Evergreen School of Graduate and Professional Studies. This school's mission embraces inclusive graduate education that engages students and faculty in addressing the challenges facing our state and communities. To guide the school's work, we identify a set of five key values (IDEAS):

1. Integrated curriculum
2. Diverse and inclusive programs
3. Engaged in the community
4. Adaptive
5. Sustainable

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Organizational Plan: The School for Graduate and Professional Studies is intended to create an organizational structure that takes advantage of cross program efficiencies to expand programs and increase student participation in graduate and professional studies at Evergreen. In the past, graduate programs have been limited to one track to one degree. While these programs have generally remained popular and have maintained or grown their student enrollment, at this time Evergreen needs to expand student enrollment in all areas of the college. Expanding the number of tracks to a degree and the number of degrees offered will expand the graduate school's capacity to attract and serve more students and to increase Evergreen's influence on the work force across the state.

We imagine the School of Graduate and professional studies will expand through a phased approach. The expansion can begin with positioning the existing programs to expand the number of tracks to a degree (i.e, part time, online) and or the number of degrees (Master of Science, Master of Education, Education Doctorate in Leadership and Policy). Additionally, Oand considered phase two but conducted simultaneously the introduction of professional certificates that do not require degrees for viable professional learning in all fields (i.e., Special Education, Education Technology, Human Resources Leadership, Leadership for Political Campaigns; Managing Land Trusts; Facilitating for public interest). Certificates will be self-sustaining and revenue generating (see certificates proposal). The final development phase of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies is the development of a public service research center. This is also intended to be self-sustaining and run primarily on grants.

1. Tuition Based Programs

Graduate Education Programs (MiT, MEd, EdD, SpEd, ELL endorsements)

Graduate Public Administration Programs (MPA, PA certificates)

Graduate Environmental Studies Programs (MES,MS)

Graduate Fine Arts Programs (MFA, Technical Certificates)

2. Self-Sustaining Programs

Professional Certifications

Public Service Research Center

Organizational Design: This proposal uses, and in some ways, repurposes exiting positions to improve and clarify roles and responsibilities to help lead and define the new school.

Dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies will be responsible for over-seeing the vision and mission of the college, working with the provost to manage and support program directors, who support their staff and the faculty. The dean will create processes for the graduate school to run smoothly and secure the internal and external resources necessary to maintain the school's reputation, rigor and usefulness in the region. The dean will convene a faculty advisory committee and together will plan and facilitate monthly graduate school meetings to maintain transparent leadership and build support for ongoing and upcoming work across the graduate school.

This dean will work in collaboration with each of the deans of the other college but will be responsible for promoting the interests of the graduate and professional studies programs. This position expects a redesign of the deanery at Evergreen in which each college has a dean, and rather than

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Elevator Pitch: As an integral part of the new Evergreen State University, the School of Graduate and Professional Studies will be the go-to state institution for affordable, Masters-level training in education, environmental research, public policy and administration, and tribal governance. Local professionals returning to school, college graduates from the Northwest or around the country, and international students all form part of our graduate cohorts starting a new degree program to boost their careers and expand their horizons. Our three graduate degree programs are grounded in values of service, community, social justice, and stewardship. Students add skills to their portfolio through courses and hands-on learning via internships and capstones, teacher placements, and/or original research. Our outstanding faculty take an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and lead collaborations in and outside of the classroom with connections to local agencies, nonprofits, schools, and sovereign tribes. With a Master in Teaching, Master of Public Administration or Master in Environmental Studies from Evergreen State University, our graduates will take the lead in shaping a better future.

Potential Tag Lines

Evergreen's School of Graduate and Professional Studies:

Building Your Greener Future (or) Build Your Greener Future

Building a Future, Together

Your Learning, Our Future (or) Your Learning, Your Future

Your Learning, Your Career