



The Evergreen State University School of Graduate Studies

As an integral part of the new Evergreen State University, the School of Graduate 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 graduate degree programs are grounded in values of service, community, social justice, and stewardship.** Students add skills to their portfolio both 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 graduate degree or certificate from Evergreen State University, our graduates will shape a greener future.

An Evergreen graduate school will **build on our existing strengths of faculty, staff, and students,** and in particular address the needs of economically vulnerable students, first generation college students, students of color, and students who are women. With this in mind, we propose a school model built around five key design criteria, our **IDEAS.**

- **Integrated Curriculum,** through teaching and learning across disciplines, students developing interdisciplinary solutions, and connecting to/integrating with undergraduate Schools, Paths, and programs.
- **Diverse and Inclusive Programs,** emphasizing accessibility and affordability, inclusive marketing and recruiting strategies, student cohort identity-building, continuing an inclusive graduate school culture, and developing professional communications and network-building.
- **Engaged in the Community,** through experiential learning, teacher placements, service learning opportunities, and applied research, especially by expanding on faculty/graduate/ undergraduate collaboration opportunities.
- **Adaptive to Changing Needs,** of our students, community, and University, as identified through regular stakeholder engagement and assessment, attending to scalability, i.e. the capacity to expand and contract programs as needed to meet demand, and establishing a school culture that supports innovation and change.
- **Sustainable for the Long Term,** both fiscal sustainability by offering academic programs that can pay for themselves, and institutional sustainability by attending to a governance structure through which our staff and faculty can be supported and empowered.

An Evergreen graduate school provides the flexibility **to collaboratively develop new staff positions, programs, certificates, degrees and degree programs, and Centers** that could find a home in the School of Graduate Studies. Some of the potential ideas mentioned over the past year in different venues are:

- Dedicated Admissions, Financial Aid, Marketing/Recruitment, and Community Liaison (e.g. internships) staff.
- Certificates, either as part of degree-earning programs (e.g. the GIS Certificate in MES, or teaching endorsements such as SpEd, ELL), or through stand-alone, revenue-generating programs (e.g. Education Technology, Human Resources Leadership).
- New degrees within existing graduate programs, including M.Ed., Leadership and Policy, or M.S. degrees.
- New degree programs such as a MFA or others.
- A self-sustaining Center for Research, designed to increase grant funding opportunities and integrating grants across Evergreen's Schools, graduate and undergraduate faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students.

We are ready to **move forward on these IDEAS** collaboratively with **staff, faculty, students, community members and administrators**—to enact the vision of an **integrated, diverse, engaged, adaptive and sustainable School of Graduate Studies.**