

## Greeners At Work, 2003 Summary

Greeners at Work, 2003 is the third administration of a survey of Evergreen alumni to understand how well The Evergreen State College prepares its graduates for employment. The research project includes a survey of alumni and a survey of alumni supervisors. Alumni were surveyed three years after receipt of their baccalaureate degree and then asked for permission to contact their supervisor. A total of 369 alumni (39% of the sample) and 110 supervisors (73% of the sample of supervisors that alumni gave permission to contact) completed surveys.

The following is a summary of the results of the alumni survey:

- Of alumni respondents, 87% reported that they are either in graduate school, employed or self-employed, or both in graduate school and employed/self-employed. The percentage of all respondents in graduate school was 23%.
- Alumni were asked to rate their level of skill on a series of work-related skills. Alumni were given a scale of 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, and 4 = Excellent. They could also indicate that a particular skill was not applicable. Most common alumni responses were good to excellent on all skills. Mean scores for alumni self-reported skill level were highest on ability to work in a culturally diverse environment (3.73), willingness and aptitude to learn new skills (3.71), and independence and initiative (3.69). Mean scores for alumni were lowest on ability to give presentations in the work environment (3.12), computer literacy (3.02), and math skills/numeracy (2.71).
- Alumni were asked to rate how well their education at Evergreen prepared them in particular skill areas on a scale of 1 = Not at All, 2 = To Some Extent, and 3 = A Great Deal (3). Alumni could also indicate that a particular skill was not applicable. Alumni rated their preparation at Evergreen highest in ability to work cooperatively on team efforts, ability to critically analyze information, and creative thinking skills. Alumni rated their preparation at Evergreen lowest on leadership, computer literacy, and math skills.
- The largest percentages of respondents worked for organizations in Health Care and Social Assistance (25%), Public Administration (21%), and Educational Services (20%).
- Most respondent occupations fit within the broad categories of Community and Social Services Occupations (21%); Education, Training, and Library Occupations (14%); Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (12.7%); and Management Occupations (10.2%).

The following are highlights of the employer survey:

- Supervisors were asked to rate the quality of work of the Evergreen alum that they supervise on a scale of exceeded expectations for the position, met expectations, or has not met expectations. More than 60% said that the alum's quality of work exceeded expectations for the position.
- Supervisors rated an alum's level of skill on a scale of 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, or 4 = Excellent. Most common responses for questions regarding alumni skill level were good to excellent in all skill areas. Supervisors rated alumni highest on their willingness and aptitude to learn new skills, ability to work in a culturally diverse environment, and ability to work cooperatively on team efforts. Supervisors rated alumni lowest on their ability to give presentations in the work environment, negotiating skills, and leadership.

- Ability to work cooperatively on team efforts, ability to organize and tackle work efficiently and independence and initiative were cited by supervisors as most important to alums' work. Skills least important were leadership, ability to give presentations, and math skills.
- Supervisors' rated alumni's math/numeracy skills and computer literacy skills higher than alumni rated themselves.