





The Evergreen State College
 Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006
 Experience of First-time, First-year Students




Most Important Skills

After a series of questions about Evergreen's contribution to students' growth in various skills, students were asked to identify which of the skills in the list were most important. The question was open-ended and this may have contributed to the relatively large number of first-time, first-year students who did not respond to this question (N=24). Students could write in as many skills as they wanted and some students identified all or many skills as important while others identified only one or two skills as being most important.

More than 30% of first-time, first-year respondents (31.2%) wrote that writing effectively was among the most important skills. Other skills that were commonly cited as most important are: speaking effectively (22.6% indicated this skill as one of the most important), readiness for further education (18.3%), and learning independently (18.3%). Only 1% of first-time, first-year respondents wrote that understanding and applying quantitative reasoning was one of the most important skills and 2.2% indicated that understanding and applying scientific principles and methods was one of the most important.

Of the skills above, which are the most important to you? (N=117) <i>Items sorted by highest to lowest percentage who identified skill as one of most important</i>		Percentage identified skill as one of most important	Percentage did not identify skill as one of most important	Skipped question (N)
	Writing effectively	31.2%	68.8%	24
	Speaking effectively	22.6%	77.4%	24
	Readiness for further education (graduate, professional, or doctoral)	18.3%	81.7%	24
	Learning independently	18.3%	81.7%	24
	Expressing yourself in creative or artistic ways	17.2%	82.8%	24
	Recognizing your responsibilities, rights, and privileges as a citizen	17.2%	82.8%	24
	Readiness for a career	16.1%	83.9%	24
	Depth or expertise in a particular field	16.1%	83.9%	24

Of the skills above, which are the most important to you? (N=117) <i>Items sorted by highest to lowest percentage who identified skill as one of most important</i>		Percentage identified skill as one of most important	Percentage did not identify skill as one of most important	Skipped question (N)
	Knowledge in a broad range of subjects	15.1%	84.9%	24
	Managing your time effectively	14.0%	86.0%	24
	Synthesizing information and ideas from many sources	12.9%	87.1%	24
	Understanding different philosophies and cultures	11.8%	88.2%	24
	Other <i>(See explanation below)</i>	8.6%	91.4%	24
	Functioning as a responsible member of a diverse community	7.5%	92.5%	24
	Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	7.5%	92.5%	24
	Working cooperatively in a group	7.5%	92.5%	24
	Participating in class discussions	7.5%	92.5%	24
	Critically analyzing written information	6.5%	93.5%	24
	Defining and solving problems	5.4%	94.6%	24
	Reading for academic purposes	5.4%	94.6%	24
	Giving effective presentations	4.3%	95.7%	24
	Using computer technology to present work, find information, or solve problems	4.3%	95.7%	24

Of the skills above, which are the most important to you? (N=117) <i>Items sorted by highest to lowest percentage who identified skill as one of most important</i>		Percentage identified skill as one of most important	Percentage did not identify skill as one of most important	Skipped question (N)
	Understanding and appreciating the arts	4.3%	95.7%	24
	Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	2.2%	97.8%	24
	Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods (e.g. mathematics, statistics)	1.1%	98.9%	24

Of those who responded to the question, 8.6% indicated a skill not listed in the question set or added additional comments in response to the question. Two respondents gave explanations about their responses to the previous question set. The previous question set had asked students to indicate the extent to which Evergreen had contributed to their growth in various skill areas. Five respondents wrote in skills that were not in the original question set. These skills are: being prepared (generally); an overall broad understanding of the world, expressing oneself "critically"; the arts, generally; and "understanding material." Another respondent wrote: "Recognizing responsibilities, rights and privileges as a PERSON (undefined by citizenship). Perhaps as a global citizen."