

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

**Primary Area of Study or Concentration and Ability to Study in Field of Interest**

Students were asked to respond to the question: "What is your primary field of study or concentration at Evergreen?" The open-ended responses to this question were coded into the Classification for Instructional Programs (CIP) 2000 codes. Please note that many first-time, first-year respondents indicated more than one primary area of study or concentration, therefore percentages do not add up to 100%. The most commonly mentioned areas of interest were within Social Sciences (20.4%), Visual and Performing arts (17.7%), and English Language and Literature/Letters (16.8%). More specific information about individual responses or responses by Planning Unit is available upon request. Contact Jenni Minner at the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (minnerj@evergreen.edu) for more information.

*Primary Area of Study or Concentration and Ability to Study in Field of Interest*

CIP Classification Representing Primary Area(s) of Study or Concentration(s) at Evergreen (N=113, four did not respond)	Wrote in Area of Interest within CIP category (N)	Percent of First-time, First-years
Social Sciences	23	20.4%
Visual and Performing Arts	20	17.7%
English Language and Literature/Letters	19	16.8%
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	9	8.0%
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	9	8.0%
History	9	8.0%
Natural Resources and Conservation	9	8.0%
Psychology	8	7.1%
Liberal Arts and Sciences	6	5.3%
Multi-Interdisciplinary Studies (Science with no distinction between physical and biological sciences.)	6	5.3%
Philosophy and Religious Studies	5	4.4%
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	4	3.5%
Education	4	3.5%
Foreign Languages, Literature, and Linguistics	4	3.5%
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	3	2.7%
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	3	2.7%
Business, Management, Marketing and Related Support Services	2	1.8%
Legal Professions and Studies	2	1.8%
Mathematics and Statistics	2	1.8%
Physical Sciences	2	1.8%

CIP Classification Representing Primary Area(s) of Study or Concentration(s) at Evergreen (N=113, four did not respond)	Wrote in Area of Interest within CIP category (N)	Percent of First-time, First-years
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	2	1.8%
Agriculture, Agricultural Operations, and Related Sciences	1	0.9%
Communication Technologies/Technicians and Support Services	1	0.9%
Undecided	8	7.1%
Other comments not categorized	7	6.2%

The following are the uncategorized comments of first-time, first-year respondents: "fun," "no concentration," "N/A," "Not really," "the multiplicity of data: the ineffectuality of dumb surveys," "Varied," and "Whatever I want."

### Ability to Study Area of Interest

Students were asked to indicate how satisfied they are with their ability to study what they are interested in at Evergreen. About 59% of first-time, first-year respondents indicated that they were "Quite a Bit" or "Very" satisfied that they can study what they are interested in at Evergreen. About 14% of first-time, first-year respondents indicated that they are "Not at All" or "A Little Bit" satisfied. More than a quarter (27.6%) said that they were "Moderately" satisfied.

This year, to what extent do you feel...? (N=116)	Not at All (0)	A Little Bit (1)	Moderately (2)	Quite a Bit (3)	Very (4)
Satisfied that you can study what you are interested in at Evergreen	3.4%	10.3%	27.6%	33.6%	25.0%

*Mean = 2.66, Median = 3.00. (N=116 since one respondent skipped this question.)*

Data from the question about satisfaction with the ability to study in interest area was compared with responses to the question about primary area of interest or concentration. The following are the primary areas of interest among those respondents who said that they were "Not at All" satisfied that they can study what they are interested in at Evergreen (N=4): "film," "music production," and "political philosophy". There was one additional respondent who indicated that they had been taking "standard English and history credits" through programs, but it was not clear how this comment related to their actual interests.

The primary areas of interest or concentration among those respondents who said that they were "A Little Bit" satisfied that they can study what they are interested in at Evergreen (N=12) included: "Computer Science", "Social Sciences," "English," "Political Science," and "Science, biology, chemistry" and a comment that included social sciences and another specific health-related field. The rest of the respondents (N=5) write in: "N/A," "No concentration," "Not decided," "Not really," and "the multiplicity of data: the ineffectuality of dumb surveys." One respondent did not indicate a primary area or concentration.