

The Evergreen State College

Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006

Responses of Students in the Tacoma Program

Overview

This report summarizes the responses of students who were studying in the Tacoma Program in Spring 2006 on questions related to their experiences at The Evergreen State College. A random sample of 1200 undergraduate students from all locations of Evergreen (Olympia campus, Tacoma Center, Tribal: Reservation-based/Community-determined sites, and the Grays Harbor site) and all students who participated in the Evergreen New Student Survey 2005 were asked to participate in the Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006. In all, 99 Tacoma students were asked to participate, of whom 39 (39%) responded. The number of respondents represents 18% of the total population of students studying Spring Quarter in the Tacoma Program (N=213).

Number of Respondents	39
Total number of Tacoma students contacted to participate	99
Percentage of Tacoma students asked to participate who responded	39%
Respondents as a proportion of the total population in Tacoma Program	18%

Survey Response Types

Students were asked to participate in the survey via e-mail if they had a valid e-mail address on file. The e-mail invitation to participate had a link to the web version of the survey. Students were also contacted via mail to fill out the survey either on the web or on paper. The largest proportion of respondents (61.5%) completed the survey via the web and 38.5% completed the paper survey and returned it via mail.

<i>Survey Response Types</i>	N	%
Mail survey	15	38.5%
Web survey	24	61.5%

Demographic Comparisons Between Respondents and the Tacoma Student Population

The following charts show demographics for respondents compared to those of the population of Tacoma students. The proportion of females and males among respondents was representative of the population of Tacoma students overall. The differences between the proportion of white students and students of color were not statistically significant, although there were some differences in proportions noted when looking at more specific racial/ethnic categories.* Overall, the proportion of Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors among respondents was similar to the proportion among Tacoma students, although the Chi-square test could not be performed given the small proportion of Freshmen and Seniors in the population and among respondents. Respondents appeared to be older on average than the population as a whole, although this difference was not statistically significant when tested using a one-sample t-test.

Gender of Respondents Compared to Population

	N Respondents	% of Respondents	N Population	N Population
Female	31	79.5%	164	77.0%
Male	8	20.5%	49	23.0%

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents Compared to Population

	N Respondents	% of Respondents	N Population	N Population
African American	14	35.9%	85	39.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	2.6%	10	4.7%
Native American/American Indian	3	7.7%	8	3.8%
Hispanic/Latino/Latina	4	10.3%	13	6.1%
White	13	33.3%	77	36.2%
Not Indicated	4	10.3%	20	9.4%

Class Standing of Respondents Compared to Population

	N Respondents	% of Respondents	N Population	N Population
Freshmen	0	0.0%	2	0.9%
Sophomores	10	25.6%	54	25.4%
Juniors	28	71.8%	150	70.4%
Seniors	1	2.6%	7	3.3%

Age of Respondents Compared to Population

	Respondents	Population
Mean Age	39.4	37.9
Median Age	39	37

* Race/Ethnicity groups had to be combined into the broader categories of students of color and white students in order to use the Chi-square test. The Chi-square test uses proportions of each category in the population to predict an "expected number" of respondents within each category. For the Chi-square test to be used, no more than 20% of the categories can have an expected number that is less than five. Due to the small expected number of students with race/ethnicity not indicated, the Chi-square test could not be used to test the proportion of students with race/ethnicity not indicated among respondents compared to the population.