









The Evergreen State College  
Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006  
Responses of Students in the Tacoma Program



### Most Important Skills

After a series of questions about Evergreen's contribution to students' growth in various skills, students were asked to identify the skills in the list that were most important. The question was open-ended. Students could write in as many skills as they wanted to and some students identified all or many skills as important while others identified only one or two skills.

Among respondents in the Tacoma program, by far the largest percentage (40.6%) indicated that writing effectively was among the most of the skills. More than thirty percent indicated that speaking effectively and readiness for further education were among the most important skills (34.4% and 31.3%, respectively). A total of 28.1% of Tacoma respondents indicated that readiness for a career was one of the most important of the skills. A quarter of the respondents indicated that synthesizing information and ideas from many sources and understanding different philosophies and cultures were among the most important skills.

Of the skills above, which are the most important to you? (N=39) <i>Items sorted by highest to lowest percentage who identified skill as one of most important</i>		Percentage identified skill as important to them	Percentage did not identify skill as one of most important	Skipped question (N)
	Writing effectively	40.6%	59.4%	7
	Speaking effectively	34.4%	65.6%	7
	Readiness for further education (graduate, professional, or doctoral)	31.3%	68.8%	7
	Readiness for a career	28.1%	71.9%	7
	Synthesizing information and ideas from many sources	25.0%	75.0%	7
	Understanding different philosophies and cultures	25.0%	75.0%	7
	Depth or expertise in a particular field	21.9%	78.1%	7
	Knowledge in a broad range of subjects	21.9%	78.1%	7

	Working cooperatively in a group	21.9%	78.1%	7
	Expressing yourself in creative or artistic ways	18.8%	81.3%	7
	Recognizing your responsibilities, rights, and privileges as a citizen	18.8%	81.3%	7
	Critically analyzing written information	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Defining and solving problems	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Functioning as a responsible member of a diverse community	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Managing your time effectively	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	15.6%	84.4%	7
	Learning independently	12.5%	87.5%	7
	Reading for academic purposes	12.5%	87.5%	7
	Giving effective presentations	9.4%	90.6%	7
	Other <i>(See explanation below)</i>	9.4%	90.6%	7
	Understanding and applying quantitative principles and methods (e.g. mathematics, statistics)	9.4%	90.6%	7
	Understanding and appreciating the arts	9.4%	90.6%	7

	Participating in class discussions	6.3%	93.8%	7
	Using computer technology to present work, find information, or solve problems	6.3%	93.8%	7

Of those who responded to the question, 9.4% (N=3) indicated a skill not listed in the question set or added additional comments in response to the question. One comment was: "Tacoma Campus is great for social work or teaching careers but is a little lacking in the Business arena... Would like to see something offered on contract law, Human Relations, etc." Another respondent wrote: "I am not going to school to get a better job. I love my current position in my professional life. The most important thing to me is diversity and to challenge myself to learn new concepts and ideas." The third respondent wrote: "They are all important--I feel that Evergreen hasn't changed anything--I've maintained the same skills/behaviors."