

The Evergreen State College
Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006
Tribal: Reservation-based/Community-Determined Programs

Diversity at Evergreen

Students were asked a series of questions regarding the importance of diversity to learning, the amount of respect for diversity, and interactions with people on campus who are different from themselves in terms of backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles. Most respondents enrolled in Tribal Programs indicated that diversity was "Quite a Bit" or "Very" important to their learning (82.7%). The mean response was somewhat lower on the item "How much respect do you think there is for different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles on campus?" Most respondents indicated that there was "Some" or "Quite a Bit" of respect for different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles on campus (75.9%). There were no respondents who indicated that there was "None" or "Very Little" respect. Finally, students were asked an open-ended question regarding their interactions with people at Evergreen who are different from themselves. Responses to this question varied and are described below.

How important do you think diversity on campus is to your learning? (N=29)

Not at all (0)	A little bit (1)	Somewhat (2)	Quite a bit (3)	Very (4)	Skipped question (N)
0.0%	3.4%	13.8%	44.8%	37.9%	0

Mean = 3.17

Median = 3.00

How much respect do you think there is for different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles on campus? (N=29)

None (0)	Very little (1)	Some (2)	Quite a bit (3)	A lot (4)	Skipped question (N)
0.0%	0.0%	41.4%	34.5%	24.1%	0

Mean = 2.83

Median = 3.00

How do you feel about your interactions with people at Evergreen who have different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles than your own?

This question was open-ended and 26 respondents from Tribal Programs wrote an answer, including two who wrote "N/A." Responses were categorized to protect confidentiality, and some students' responses are counted in multiple categories. See the table on the next page that shows the number of comments within each category.

Most students enrolled in Tribal Programs responded positively; seven respondents said they feel "good," "great," or "wonderful" about their interactions, and six said that their interactions were "fine," "pretty good" or "OK." Six respondents commented that such interactions are valuable learning experiences.

Three respondents wrote about their own ability to be open-minded and to treat others respectfully, and three respondents mentioned that people were generally open and respectful. Two respondents said that they did not interact much with people on campus or that they are not at Evergreen during the week.

Two respondents reported mixed experiences, with one responding writing that "It's different--some people connect, some don't." Two respondents reported negative, disrespectful experiences-- both on the Olympia campus. These are reported below in the categories: Negative seminar experience and other negative experiences. One of these respondents felt that a certain sign was disrespectful of Native Americans; the other reported a "verbal racial attack...in class," though this respondent clarified that s/he has had "no bad experiences" in the Reservation-based Program.

How do you feel about your interactions with people at Evergreen who have different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles than your own?

Type of Comment	Number of Respondents with Type of Comment	Percent with type of comment
Interactions described as "Great," "Good," "Wonderful"	7	26.9%
Interactions described as "Fine," "Pretty Good," "OK," "Comfortable"	6	23.1%
Interactions of this kind are valuable learning experiences	6	23.1%
People are generally open and respectful	3	11.5%
Respondents described themselves as open or respectful	3	11.5%
Mixed experiences	2	7.7%
Do not interact much/not on campus very often	2	7.7%
Wrote "N/A"	2	7.7%
Negative seminar experiences	1	4%
Other negative experiences	1	4%