

The Evergreen State College
Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2008
Responses of Olympia Campus Students

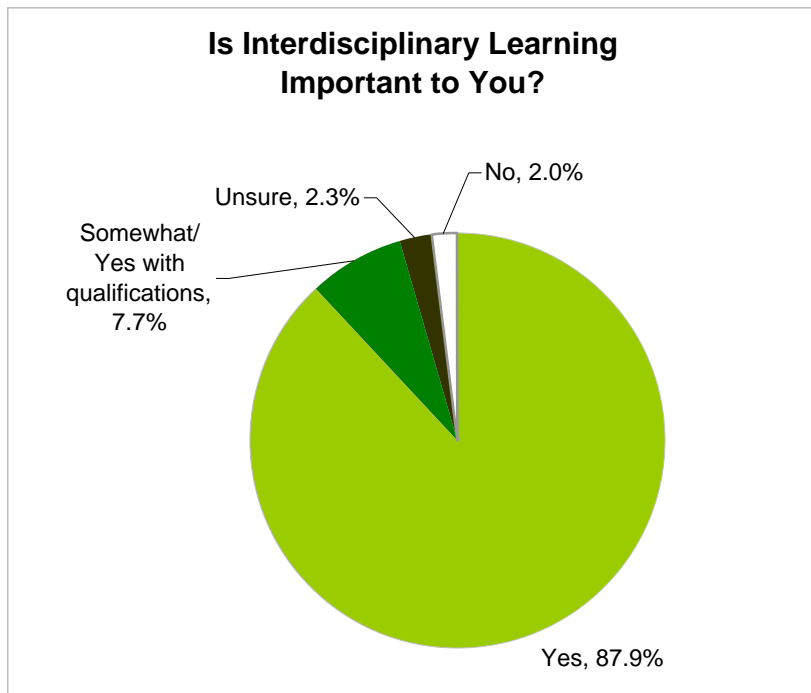
Importance of interdisciplinary learning

Students were asked to indicate whether interdisciplinary learning was important to them and to elaborate why it was or was not important.

Is interdisciplinary learning important to you?

(N=298, 26 skipped question, 6 unable to be coded)

Yes	262	87.9%
Somewhat/Yes with qualifications	23	7.7%
Unsure	7	2.3%
No	6	2.0%



Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Categories in which student responses fell are arranged in descending order by percent of total*

	Yes N=262	Somewhat/Yes with Qualifications N=23	Unsure N=7	No N=6	% of Total N=298
Helps synthesize information and ideas	33.2%	8.7%			29.9%
Real world relevance	19.5%				17.1%
Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding	16.8%		14.3%		15.1%
Learning from many perspectives	14.5%				12.8%
Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests	9.2%	13.0%			9.1%
Take ownership/ active role in learning process/ I care more/ have more invested in what I am learning	8.4%				7.4%
Well Rounded Education	8.0%	4.3%			7.4%
Broad range of experiences/ good general education	7.3%	4.3%			6.7%
Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus	6.9%				6.0%
Allows me to choose what I want to learn	6.9%				6.0%
Gives context to what I am learning	4.6%	4.3%			4.4%
If properly implemented	1.9%	26.1%	14.3%		4.0%
Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus		30.4%		50.0%	3.4%
Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills	3.1%		14.3%		3.0%
Good alternative to traditional teaching methods	3.1%				2.7%

*Percentages do not add up to 100% because student responses often fit in more than one category.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not? (cont'd)

	Yes N=262	Somewhat/Yes with Qualifications N=23	Unsure N=7	No N=6	% of Total N=298
Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives	3.1%				2.7%
Develops interpersonal skills	3.1%				2.7%
One of the reasons I attended Evergreen	2.7%				2.3%
Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment	2.3%		14.3%		2.3%
Gives you adaptability/flexibility	2.3%				2.0%
Stimulating, engaging	1.9%	4.3%			2.0%
Interdisciplinary learning is very interesting/ enjoyable	1.9%				1.7%
Lends diversity to a program	1.1%	4.3%			1.3%
Limited selection of programs	0.8%	8.7%			1.3%
Need more 4 and 8 cr classes, need more half time programs/FT programs limit options, flexibility	0.4%	13.0%			1.3%
Traditional classes are good too		13.0%			1.0%
Relationship with instructors	0.8%				0.7%
Interdisciplinary format is a hindrance for future learning endeavors		8.7%			0.7%
You can get stuck taking things you don't want to		4.3%		16.7%	0.7%
Helps with managing courseload	0.4%				0.3%
Does not apply/ not using it	0.4%				0.3%
Don't know what it is/ Unclear on what interdisciplinary learning is			14.3%		0.3%
Yes/No/Maybe/Unsure, general	7.6%		42.9%	33.3%	8.4%
Can't code response	0.8%	4.3%			1.0%

*Percentages do not add up to 100% because student responses often fit in more than one category.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Yes'

Yes, general (N=20)

yes (12)

sure

Yes I'll explain later.

Yes, all ways

Yes, it's awesome.

Yes, it's fine

Yes, it is extremely important to me.

Yes, it makes sense.

Yes, it works best for me.

Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (N=87)

Yes. It helps to connect important concepts in the sciences.

Very; I think in pictures and concepts. Therefore the interdisciplinary approach allows me to see more of the big picture and draw more relevant connections.

It is somewhat important because it is really nice to have everything be related, which also makes material easier to understand.

Absolutely, my interests are so rhizomatic and varied that I would feel constricted were I not privy to such a sundry education

Yes. It allows me to integrate different areas of science, which is important when conducting research

Yes it has made some of the more traditional courses that I have taken such as Molecule to Organism and Introduction to natural sciences more rewarding when the professors coordinate subject matter so that ah ha! moments occur simultaneously.

yes, because it allows me to explore fields I might not otherwise take classes in, and makes direct connections to areas I'm already interested in.

Yes! In the world, things are not seperated by subject, it is best to learn in as natural a way as possible.

Yes. It's a valuable skill to be able to learn the connections between subjects as you are studying them.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it provides a way to bridge many concepts and show how they are connected. Such as politics and literature, two things that one may not think have much connections, at Evergreen we are shown that they do. This provides us the opportunity to believe we can have careers that are broader than one monontous career.

It is; it is a means of presenting material to be learned in a manner that makes that material make sense in other contexts beyond class. It would be much less sensible to study subjects in isolation from each other, which I have done at other schools. Whether one is able to make connections between subjects or not, in a non-interdisciplinary setting it doesn't matter. At Evergreen those connections are the most important part of a student's learning.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because I feel it is the most realistic. In order for me to feel informed and make positive change in the world I must have a holistic view of the topic. With a life cycle understanding of the systems in place I can work to make the particular system or concept more sustainable.

Yes, it highlights connections between subjects that are often unexpected, but are very connected in the world outside academia. It feels like a breath of fresh air to come out of a lifetime of traditional education where every subject is staunchly separate and into a world where I am forced to think about my education in real-world terms, not academic terms.

Yes, very much. Subjects are not segregated in the real world.

yes, subjects make more sense when connections are made to other areas

Yes, because all of the hard sciences feed into each other. To be able to address interdisciplinary topics and issues in incredibly valuable in this realm.

Because it integrates with how I perceive, experience and process life.

Yes, I think it's great practice for finding that aspects of your life and the world around you can enrich one another- Discovering connections/differentiating and drawing similarities between"separate" subject or ideas helps make sense of life and our position in the world.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning allows students to understand how the social, cultural, political, economic, etc. systems of our country/world all work together. It provides students with the opportunity to get a "big picture" education.

Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (cont'd)

yes, because it integrates ones thinking across typical divisions

yes. I have always gone to liberal arts schools. I like to see how everything is connected and can be applied to change in the world

very much - the real world and its problems are all interconnected

Very important. I like to understand why something is important from many different perspectives. I believe interdisciplinary learning helps students see how everything is connected somehow and that bridging the gap between different ways of seeing things can be made more possible with this learning style.

Of course, it is why I came to Evergreen. Segregated disciplines promotes continual linear approaches to problems in society.

Yes, because it shows how all of the subjects are really connected to one another. It is much better then learning seperately about math and history. Interdisciplinary learning is much more like real life as well.

yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

Yes, I like being able to study a range of topics and see the connections between them.

Yes, even in night classes I've found lots that has overlapped-learning works best when you can make connections from one erea of study to another. Real life isn't seperated into subjects, so why should the classroom be?

Yes, extremely so. A varied perspective on one area has open my eyes and created a true systems way of analyzing a subject and making informed decisions and perspectives that take into account multiple disciplines.

Yes, because it draws several fields of interest together for me and thus I learn more.

yes, whole systems thinking is a must

Yes; it brings much more focus to education plus provides a vehicle that connects all the different aspects of what we have learned together.

interdisciplinary is important to because I am interested in many things and it is fun to see how my different interests are connected and be able to study them together.

I didn't think it was until I got here. I think it's really important to approach education -- at least for me -- the way Evergreen does. I love programs and am really excited to do a contract in the summer. Making connections is important in learning rather than simply memorizing and regurgitating.

Yes. I believe that all parts of life inform each other.

It allows me to select the courses that are necessary to me and offer several disciplines concurrently. More comprehensive learning, to me.

Yes because the world cannot be organized into departmental boxes.

Yes, it is very important because you get the full picture of the subject you are studying and you gain the ability of interconnectedness. Its like putting a puzzle together you need the border and the middle pieces to make it complete.

It is important to me, because life isn't just one subject. They all intermingle and coexist with one another. It's important to have at least a basic understanding of anything you can to be able to gain success in any form.

Yes, many traditional students take classes that are related but are never presented to accentuated the connections. I feel that the interdisciplinary learning helps round people's education and leaves less questions as to why certain information is useful.

I think specialization is against our nature as social, tribal, community-minded beings. We are not living as fully functional members of communities when we are too specialized. In contrast, interdisciplinary knowledge of many subjects and skills allows us to be connected to one another and the greater good, which is hopefully part of our future as humans.

Yes. I can only compare full-time/daytime 16 credits to full-time/day-time 16 credits from unrelated classes. Issues are connected, so we can explore a few themes deeply with the same core faculty and students through the program instead of unrelated classes that might stretch me in different directions. Interdisciplinary provides a more enriching education environment.

Yes. Bridges learning into a cohesive whole

yes, extremely. it's why i came to evergreen. especially when studying biology, because chemistry, microbiology, genetics ect are so interrelated. trying to study these subjects isolated from one another means not understanding each of them fully.

Absolutely, I love to have subjects connected to each other, so they can be understood collaboratively.

I think it is very important as I like incorporating more then one disipline in my learning. Such as in Science and philosophy.

[The WA community college], where I earned an Associate of Arts degree, emphasized interdisciplinary learning. I learned early on that this method of learning is best for me. I'm interested in how different fields interact or how to apply the ideas of one field the problems or issues of another field.

Yes. We need connections between the sciences, social and otherwise.

Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (cont'd)

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because of my interests, like literature and philosophy are not as separated as I might have first thought when beginning. I believe studying both, and many other disciplines like philology, for example, help to elucidate my areas of interest, and give me a broader and deeper understanding of contexts and meanings.

yes, interdisciplinary learning is crucial to developing 'true' understanding. no field stands alone, completely by itself.

Yes. Because I never truly know exactly what I want to learn. By combining subjects, I am given the exposure and flexibility to explore new topics and arenas of learning - not to mention, the ability to critically compare different academic approaches, with others, and under guidance of a professor.

Absolutely. Only by connecting various fields of knowledge through study and understanding can the real answer be found.

yes, I think it is necessary to engage yourself with several forms of language or communication, may it be expressing yourself visually, speaking a foreign language, or using a literary voice, i feel it is necessary to surround your focus of study with other challenging elements.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me!! I think it provides a rounded education and one that is needed to be an active involved person in todays world. It helps connect to ideas not only in the classroom but also once outside school it helps one connect larger issues to personal relations as well as drawing on multiple aspects of knowledge which creates a deeper understanding.

The emphasis placed upon integrating learning across disciplines allows for a greater practical application of skills. Additionally, the learning experience has a greater "real World" application.

Yes, simply because no subject can be limited to a single area, they all connect to each other in some way.

Yes, interconnected worldview which is necessary for problem solving ad integration.

Interdisciplinary learning has been the greatest experience I have had in my time at TESC. Without it, I would never have made some of the insightful connections that were possible between [seemingly] unrelated studies and texts.

Very. Many different subjects interconnect and this connection is important and cannot be ignored. Interdisciplinary learning covers all areas of a subject.

It is important to me because I learn differently then any one else does. Being able to incorporate the concepts and ideas that are important to me and my life are the best things about Evergreen.

Yes, because no subject is all that isolated, so much overlaps from other areas, and plays into a comprehensive understanding of the whole. For instance I came here to study filmmaking, I had no idea just how many fields were involved. I feel confident taking a career in anything involved in a production.

Yes, very much so. It recognizes the interconnectedness of the world and its systems. Stduents need to learn how their interests connect to and overlap with the broader view. It's more comprehensive, open, and effective.

Yes, because it is important to make connections among different fields. Rarely is a person just interested in one field, but we are often forced to concentrate on one so that our skills are more marketable. This makes a person less flexible and is detrimental. HOWEVER, I don't think that Evergreen succeeds in this area. I have never taken an interdisciplinary program that felt well blended. The professors are rarely good at combining their knowledge, and it usually just feels like two programs in one.

Yes, because in the natural world everything is connected and has an influence on each other and this style of learning accommodates that.

It is, because I believe that most studies are connected to each other somehow, and drawing lines of division hinders progress. That said, I feel that Evergreen isn't really as interdisciplinary as it claims to be, and all to often I see students completing their degree having only studied a very narrow range of subjects.

Absolutely. When subject areas are compartmentalized, the application of the material seems to be lost in the "game of school."

Yes, I can study what I want and connect many subjects through interdisciplinary contracts.

Yes, it helps me to understand subjects that are difficult for me by linking them with subjects I can grasp. Also, it opens me up to new subjects.

Yes, I feel you learn a whole lot more about the subjects when in an interdisciplinary program than a stand-alone class. To see the interaction between disciplines creates a more real world learning experience.

Yes because I like to make connections between disciplines. It has enriched my overall learning experience.

Yes, holistic education is very important. One cannot remove an area of study out of its context, or all one's learning will be removed from the context of our society and our world. Interdisciplinary learning allows the student to connect cause and effect. For example, agricultural policies are not only related to the land and ecology, but also to the political economy and culture of different peoples.

Because I seek the answers to my intellectual and emotional questions heuristically, which means I have to follow a living, historical path that includes all disciplines. It would be completely artificial to limit my learning to any subset of disciplines.

Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (cont'd)

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program].

Yes. Interdisciplinary learning makes useful connections between subjects and gives a context to better understand the material. This is much better than when subjects are separated from each other, as they are then taught with much less applicability. Individual subjects become unimportant in my eyes and are quickly forgotten.

yes! nothing in the real world that you would have to deal with is cut and dried in one discipline, everything is interrelated.

VERY!!! Allows me to see the 'big picture' as well as how othe topics relate to my area of study.

Yes, because it allows for a much more effective synthesis of information, and leads to a better understanding in all subjects. Also, this allows room for much more personal exploration, research in areas that a person is specifically interested in.

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning is essential to the Evergreen experience, the liberal arts experience, and in fact is the best means of preparing a student for the "real world." In a working environment, a person is expected to manage different types of tasks, thinking and working accross subject borders. Therefore, interdisciplinary learning provides relevant and necessary skills for any future career.

Very! Disciplines don't exist in vacuums, they overlap. It's limiting to study one thing in isolation.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. An analogy I like to use to explain this is: Imagine you spent an hour each day strengthening a single muscle in your arm. After having strengthened all of the muscles in your arm, you then try to go about doing difficult tasks which involve many muscles in your arm. You would find you were unable to do may of these tasks, because while you had worked and strengthened many different areas of your arm, these areas have not be strengthened in relation to each other. In the same way, without experiencing first hand how one subject relates to another in an interdisciplinary setting, you can not be sure you will be able to effectively apply your education in a productive manner.

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning helps to effectively integrate the things I learn in college into my real-life career choices in the future.

Yes! Everything in life is connected. A broad understanding of many different subject areas allows a person to be more dynamic and creative in their life.

Yes it is becausee, in our highly interconnected world, it is important to be able to see those connections and look at how they are interacting. Interdisciplinary studies have given me a unique opportunity to investigate some of those connections and I have discovered far more then I would have if I had continued to pursue a single major.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me because I am not a student who learns through pure memorization. Creating connections between different ideas helps me understand both more fully. Even when I took more conventional classes at other schools I found parallels between the courses and my learning was enabled by those connections.

Yeah, it really shows me how my studies are connected to other students in other programs and really makes aware the lines where I could work with others to find a solution. It gives a more comprehensive learning style.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. Making connections between fields of study makes what we learn real. In life, biology, sociology, and literature aren't divided, for example. They don't function independently in our lives and learning about fields together shed light on information we, as students, traditionally wouldn't be subject to; in this aspect Evergreen education are the most valuable of any institution in the nation.

Yes; it's a whole approach to learning a subject - makes it more interesting, not so close-minded and linear.

Real world relevance (N=51)

Yes, I want to be able to understand the importance and relevance of the communities and traditions I live amongst. Also being aware of all fields (of study or concern) gives me the ability to transfer knowledge and ideas.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because I feel it is the most realistic. In order for me to feel informed and make positive change in the world I must have a holistic view of the topic. With a life cycle understanding of the systems in place I can work to make the particular system or concept more sustainable.

Yes, it highlights connections between subjects that are often unexpected, but are very connected in the world outside academia. It feels like a breath of fresh air to come out of a lifetime of traditional education where every subject is staunchly separate and into a world where I am forced to think about my education in real-world terms, not academic terms.

Yes, very much. Subjects are not segregated in the real world.

Yes. Because nothing exists independently, so framing our learning in a way that values the reality that things are interconnected will have a positive and practical influence on the way we think about our lives and approach problem-solving.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning allows students to understand how the social, cultural, political, economic, etc. systems of our country/world all work together. It provides students with the opportunity to get a "big picture" education.

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yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

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I think specialization is against our nature as social, tribal, community-minded beings. We are not living as fully functional members of communities when we are too specialized. In contrast, interdisciplinary knowledge of many subjects and skills allows us to be connected to one another and the greater good, which is hopefully part of our future as humans.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me!! I think it provides a rounded education and one that is needed to be an active involved person in todays world. It helps connect to ideas not only in the classroom but also once outside school it helps one connect larger issues to personal relations as well as drawing on multiple aspects of knowledge which creates a deeper understanding.

The emphasis placed upon integrating learning across disciplines allows for a greater practical application of skills. Additionally, the learning experience has a greater "real World" application.

It is important to me because I learn differently then any one else does. Being able to incorporate the concepts and ideas that are important to me and my life are the best things about Evergreen.

Yes, because in the natural world everything is connected and has an influence on each other and this style of learning accommodates that.

Absolutely. When subject areas are compartmentalized, the application of the material seems to be lost in the "game of school."

Yes, I feel you learn a whole lot more about the subjects when in an interdisciplinary program than a stand-alone class. To see the interaction between disciplines creates a more real world learning experience.

Real world relevance (cont'd)

yes! nothing in the real world that you would have to deal with is cut and dried in one discipline, everything is interrelated.

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning helps to effectively integrate the things I learn in college into my real-life career choices in the future.

Yes it is because, in our highly interconnected world, it is important to be able to see those connections and look at how they are interacting. Interdisciplinary studies have given me a unique opportunity to investigate some of those connections and I have discovered far more than I would have if I had continued to pursue a single major.

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yes, I feel that it develops skills that are needed outside of academic settings

Yes. Life is interdisciplinary!

Very much so. It creates a broader, more useful knowledge base to use in the real world.

Because it makes what you are doing real and relateable.

Because that's the way life is.

Yes, it makes learning more accessible, meaningful and applicable.

Yes, it generally answers the question why am I doing this and makes things fit into the world more realistically.

Yes, I think I can take away a lot more from my education. The context in which we are learning the material is more applicable.

yes it helps make the material interesting and relevant to the real world

interdisciplinary learning is the reason that i am at evergreen. students don't realize that life IS interdisciplinary, and most graduates don't know how to apply what they learn to anything else.

Yes, It gives you the opportunity to learn from other disciplines and is more realistic to actual interaction outside an academic setting.

It is. It makes sure people are learning practical things that give them experience for the future instead of them completing assignments that don't teach them anything just so they can get a bit of text on their resume so they can get a job working in a dark office the rest of their lives.

Yes because it approaches learning of material in a real world context rather than forcing you to learn something just so you can test well on it.

Yes interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it helps to tie what you may be learning to the outside world and exposes one to a variety of opinions as well as points of view.

Yes, I feel it can bring a real life connection to the subject matter being taught and aids in understanding.

I think it is important because I would like to study interdisciplinary learning.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it makes learning applicable and relevant . I find it easier to apply my learning to real life situation when I have been taught them in context

Yes, it is a very constructive and applicable way to learn.

Yes. Interdisciplinary learning is congruent to the world that surrounds us, and is appropriate.

Very important because it will prepare me in working with others in my career field. Plus, every kind of learning is important to me.

yes, it reflects reality, life in general.

Real world relevance (cont'd)

Yes. I've found these mixed classes to be an exceptional way of learning not only whatever the core focus of the class is, but how it affects the world at large. This focus has been present in all classes I've taken. Even the smaller 4 credit classes are imbued with a sense of needing to provide multiple disciplines into the subject. That said, there HAVE to be more 4 and 8 credit classes made available. There needs to not only be more of these classes in the evening but there really should be smaller classes provided during the day as well. The huge 16 credit courses are simply not possible for returning students to commit to. From my observations and anecdotal evidence from staff, graduates and other students, the people who get the most from Evergreen are the older students who are returning to school, and not the 18 and 19 year olds. There is a large adult student community and while we may be able to find a day or two a week to come to class during regular business hours, we certainly cannot manage the 16 credit courses that are the only options for far too many fields of study.

Yes, I feel more well rounded and like I can apply my learning to real life.

Yes, It gives me a chance to see how my learning will apply to the outside world.

Yes. The notion of studying subjects in a sterile environment is not conducive to reality.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me because it's something I need to work on. Later in life no one is going to be there to hold your hand. It's important to be independent and to push yourself as much as you can.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it represents the interdisciplinary world in which I live. Very little in my life can be broken down into a single heading. Why should my classes?

Yes. I can make connections between what I'm learning and its application in the real world.

Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (N=44)

It is essential to learning.

It is somewhat important because it is really nice to have everything be related, which also makes material easier to understand.

Yes, I want to be able to understand the importance and relevance of the communities and traditions I live amongst. Also being aware of all fields (of study or concern) gives me the ability to transfer knowledge and ideas.

Yes! In the world, things are not separated by subject, it is best to learn in as natural a way as possible.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because I feel it is the most realistic. In order for me to feel informed and make positive change in the world I must have a holistic view of the topic. With a life cycle understanding of the systems in place I can work to make the particular system or concept more sustainable.

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yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

Yes, because it draws several fields of interest together for me and thus I learn more.

Yes. I can only compare full-time/daytime 16 credits to full-time/day-time 16 credits from unrelated classes. Issues are connected, so we can explore a few themes deeply with the same core faculty and students through the program instead of unrelated classes that might stretch me in different directions. Interdisciplinary provides a more enriching education environment.

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Yes, very much so. It recognizes the interconnectedness of the world and its systems. Students need to learn how their interests connect to and overlap with the broader view. It's more comprehensive, open, and effective.

Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (cont'd)

Yes, it helps me to understand subjects that are difficult for me by linking them with subjects I can grasp. Also, it opens me up to new subjects.

Yes, I feel you learn a whole lot more about the subjects when in an interdisciplinary program than a stand-alone class. To see the interaction between disciplines creates a more real world learning experience.

Yes, because it allows for a much more effective synthesis of information, and leads to a better understanding in all subjects. Also, this allows room for much more personal exploration, research in areas that a person is specifically interested in.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. An analogy I like to use to explain this is: Imagine you spent an hour each day strengthening a single muscle in your arm. After having strengthened all of the muscles in your arm, you then try to go about doing difficult tasks which involve many muscles in your arm. You would find you were unable to do many of these tasks, because while you had worked and strengthened many different areas of your arm, these areas have not been strengthened in relation to each other. In the same way, without experiencing first hand how one subject relates to another in an interdisciplinary setting, you can not be sure you will be able to effectively apply your education in a productive manner.

Yes, it has enabled me to learn more than I could have had I had a 'major'

yes i learn more from my fellow students

Yes, I feel this improves overall retention.

Yes. I feel it is one of the most beneficial ways of learning.

yes! this style of learning makes more sense to me and offers one the ability to obtain a more well-rounded education, in my opinion.

Yes, it makes learning more accessible, meaningful and applicable.

yes because it helps me learn the material.

Yes, I think I think I can take away a lot more from my education. The context in which we are learning the material is more applicable.

Yes, it is a unique but informative learning style that involves the student to actively participate in their own learning. I have obtained and retained so much more information and knowledge in an interdisciplinary setting than in any other learning setting I have been a part of.

Yes, it helps the concept sink in better to approach it in many ways.

Yes, I am not successful, or interested in the traditional model.

Yes, the structure of the learning and the small classes allow for the best possible learning environment.

Yes, I feel it can bring a real life connection to the subject matter being taught and aids in understanding.

Yes, it is a very constructive and applicable way to learn.

Yes. Interdisciplinary learning allows for different learning styles and allows students to learn from each other in a more meaningful fashion.

Yes. I appreciate being able to study in multiple disciplines because I gain a greater understanding of the world. I also have many interests, so an interdisciplinary curriculum allows me opportunities to pursue a variety of paths.

Yes, this I learn what I need to learn.

Yes. It helps me really understand what I am focusing on learning. It gives me different perspectives on a subject and keeps me interested and excited about whatever I'm learning.

Yes, because my program is "one thing" I can focus on.

Yes. I've found these mixed classes to be an exceptional way of learning not only whatever the core focus of the class is, but how it affects the world at large. This focus has been present in all classes I've taken. Even the smaller 4 credit classes are imbued with a sense of needing to provide multiple disciplines into the subject. That said, there HAVE to be more 4 and 8 credit classes made available. There needs to not only be more of these classes in the evening but there really should be smaller classes provided during the day as well. The huge 16 credit courses are simply not possible for returning students to commit to. From my observations and anecdotal evidence from staff, graduates and other students, the people who get the most from Evergreen are the older students who are returning to school, and not the 18 and 19 year olds. There is a large adult student community and while we may be able to find a day or two a week to come to class during regular business hours, we certainly cannot manage the 16 credit courses that are the only options for far too many fields of study.

Yes, I find it important because I feel I am getting a more complete understanding of the subjects I have studied.

Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (cont'd)

Yes, because it allows me the opportunity to learn what I want and gives me the chance to take everything possible out of the experience.

yes, because I gain a deeper understanding, and more rounded learning.

yes, I feel I can learn more and have better projects in the end

Yes it is, because it keeps my attention focused and avoids alot of mundane crap.

Yes, without it I don't learn.

Yes, keeps me focused.

yes, it provides the context in which mathematical discoveries are made

Learning from many perspectives (N=38)

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it provides a way to bridge many concepts and show how they are connected. Such as politics and literature, two things that one may not think have much connections, at Evergreen we are shown that they do. This provides us the opportunity to believe we can have careers that are broader than one monontous career.

Very important. I like to understand why something is important from many different perspectives. I believe interdisciplinary learning helps students see how everything is connected somehow and that bridging the gap between different ways of seeing things can be made more possible with this learning style.

Yes, extremely so. A varied perspective on one area has open my eyes and created a true systems way of analyzing a subject and making informed decisions and perspectives that take into account multiple disciplines.

Yes, it is very important because you get the full picture of the subject you are studying and you gain the ability of interconnectedness. Its like putting a puzzle together you need the border and the middle pieces to make it complete.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me!! I think it provides a rounded education and one that is needed to be an active involved person in todays world. It helps connect to ideas not only in the classroom but also once outside school it helps one connect larger issues to personal relations as well as drawing on multiple aspects of knowledge which creates a deeper understanding.

Very. Many different subjects interconnect and this connection is important and cannot be ignored. Interdisciplinary learning covers all areas of a subject.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is important to me. I do not think that it is possible to have as rich or as complex of a perspective on something if you are limited to only one epistemological framework.

Yes, it gives you an opportunity to focus and view more than one idea.

Yes, the more perspectives the more opportunity to learn something new

Yes, interdisciplinary learning broadens perspective and allows your brain to expand and absorb more knowledge.

Yes -- it makes balancing courseloads easier as well as having the benefits of studying many aspects of a subject.

Yes, I believe it gives a broader perspective.

Of course. Especially since I am seeking to be a teacher. It is very important I can look at a subject from a variety of angles.

Yes it allows me to engage and interact with my peers and faculty with the same interest or ideas. All bringing a different perspective or shedding new light upon one another.

Yes interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it helps to tie what you may be learning to the outside world and exposes one to a variety of opinions as well as points of view.

Yes, it helps the concept sink in better to approach it in many ways.

Yes, new and different ways of thinking are always beneficial.

Yes! because I am able to study the subject matter from many different perspectives. I also have a more unbiased understanding of the subject matter.

It is important to me to get a full grasp of something, not just one view. For example I love the Culture, Text and Language way that you get history, art, literature, and all the subtext of that time or place from it.

Learning from many perspectives (cont'd)

yes very! Until we learn to grasp the plurality of the situation and issues we are all working on and until we are willing to us an inter sectional analysis to develop solutions we will not make significant sustainable progress

It is particularly in the field of science so that you have multiple ways to approach questions.

yes, can't study anything in isolation; need a broader perspective

Absolutely. Interdisciplinary learning has given me a more objective (and well rounded) perspective in my specific field of interest and in my life as a whole.

Yes. I don't want to be limited to one discipline or one way of thinking about a problem when I'm in a program. I want to be able to approach a problem from many different angles.

Yes. I like being able to learn things through an avenue I never would have thought about, or see the things I'm interested in through another viewpoint.

Yes, it helps me understand a wider variety of aspects within my chosen field.

Yes. I've found these mixed classes to be an exceptional way of learning not only whatever the core focus of the class is, but how it affects the world at large. This focus has been present in all classes I've taken. Even the smaller 4 credit classes are imbued with a sense of needing to provide multiple disciplines into the subject. That said, there HAVE to be more 4 and 8 credit classes made available. There needs to not only be more of these classes in the evening but there really should be smaller classes provided during the day as well. The huge 16 credit courses are simply not possible for returning students to commit to. From my observations and anecdotal evidence from staff, graduates and other students, the people who get the most from Evergreen are the older students who are returning to school, and not the 18 and 19 year olds. There is a large adult student community and while we may be able to find a day or two a week to come to class during regular business hours, we certainly cannot manage the 16 credit courses that are the only options for far too many fields of study.

Yes, it is importance to study all the relevant areas of a particular topic, because it creates interests and ideas for further studies.

Yes! becoming to focused on any one topic blinds you to the related topics surrounding it.

promotes critical thinking keeps me continuously challenging myself and my ideology/beliefs

Absolutely. I greatly value my ability to approach an issue from many different angles and through many lenses. I believe this is because of my interdisciplinary educational experience at TESC.

Absolutely, it offers a larger arena of education that includes multiple viewpoints.

It is important so that we can understand a subject from multiple different aspects.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. Examining a topic from several different aspects is interesting and makes me care more about the topic.

Yes, it allowed me to be exposed to other fields which I'd never have come to on my own, and it gave me a sense of perspective on my primary focus.

Yes, I value a diverse perspectives of the subjects I have chosen to study.

Yes because it allows me to pull from multiple angles to gain understanding.

Yes, I have multi-perspective education, and like the contact with new students.

Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests (N=24)

yes, because it allows me to explore fields I might not otherwise take classes in, and makes direct connections to areas I'm already interested in.

Yes, I like being able to study a range of topics and see the connections between them.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because of my interests, like literature and philosophy are not as separated as I might have first thought when beginning. I believe studying both, and many other disciplines like philology, for example, help to elucidate my areas of interest, and give me a broader and deeper understanding of contexts and meanings.

Yes. Because I never truly know exactly what I want to learn. By combining subjects, I am given the exposure and flexibility to explore new topics and arenas of learning - not to mention, the ability to critically compare different academic approaches, with others, and under guidance of a professor.

Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests (cont'd)

Interdisciplinary learning has been the greatest experience I have had in my time at TESC. Without it, I would never have made some of the insightful connections that were possible between [seemingly] unrelated studies and texts.

Yes, it helps me to understand subjects that are difficult for me by linking them with subjects I can grasp. Also, it opens me up to new subjects.

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program].

Yes. It helped me discover what I really want to study, what my interests are, and how other disciplines work that I would not have otherwise had much discourse with.

Yes, it allows me the freedom to explore topics that otherwise I would not have the opportunity to.

Yes, the more perspectives the more opportunity to learn something new

Yes, it is important to get a variety of studies to find what you really want to know and learn.

very, it is a great tool for a well rounded education, and also can be helpful in revealing subject you may not know you are interested in.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning broadens perspective and allows your brain to expand and absorb more knowledge.

Yes, It gives you the opportunity to learn from other disciplines and is more realistic to actual interaction outside an academic setting.

Yes. I appreciate being able to study in multiple disciplines because I gain a greater understanding of the world. I also have many interests, so an interdisciplinary curriculum allows me opportunities to pursue a variety of paths.

yes, i have more than one interests

Yes. I like being able to learn things through an avenue I never would have thought about, or see the things I'm interested in through another viewpoint.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because without variety everything (especially academics) has a tendency to get stagnant.

Yes, it is importance to study all the relevant areas of a particular topic, because it creates interests and ideas for further studies.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it allows me to explore the other subjects that I may or not be interested in.

Yes, I want to be able to learn things and find new interests by accident through interdisciplinary programs.

Yes, it allows me to explore alternative avenues that previously I have not considered.

Yes, I like learning many things stemming from one subject.

Yes, it allowed me to be exposed to other fields which I'd never have come to on my own, and it gave me a sense of perspective on my primary focus.

Take ownership/ active role in learning process/ I care more/ have more invested in what I am learning (N=22)

Absolutely, my interests are so rhizomatic and varied that I would feel constricted were I not privy to such a sundry education

Yes, I want to be able to understand the importance and relevance of the communities and traditions I live amongst. Also being aware of all fields (of study or concern) gives me the ability to transfer knowledge and ideas.

Yes, I can study what I want and connect many subjects through interdisciplinary contracts.

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program].

Yes, because it allows for a much more effective synthesis of information, and leads to a better understanding in all subjects. Also, this allows room for much more personal exploration, research in areas that a person is specifically interested in.

Take ownership/ active role in learning process/ I care more/ have more invested in what I am learning (cont'd)

Yes it is because, in our highly interconnected world, it is important to be able to see those connections and look at how they are interacting. Interdisciplinary studies have given me a unique opportunity to investigate some of those connections and I have discovered far more than I would have if I had continued to pursue a single major.

Yes, it allows me the freedom to explore topics that otherwise I would not have the opportunity to.

Yes, I feel it's important to take on your education with more than just signing up for class.

It is important, because it makes me feel more valued as an individual student. I feel that I can study what inspires me the most and have my work noticed as education.

Yes, it is a unique but informative learning style that involves the student to actively participate in their own learning. I have obtained and retained so much more information and knowledge in an interdisciplinary setting than in any other learning setting I have been a part of.

yes, teaches people to design their own internal set of motivations and structure for importance of knowledge

Yes, it makes you self driven. Helps to get more into my education.

I think it's great because I feel like I'm at part of the process versus just a container storing all this knowledge. What I'm learning here helps me to truly be the individual I want to be not cookie-cutter.

Yes. I appreciate being able to study in multiple disciplines because I gain a greater understanding of the world. I also have many interests, so an interdisciplinary curriculum allows me opportunities to pursue a variety of paths.

Yes. It helps me really understand what I am focusing on learning. It gives me different perspectives on a subject and keeps me interested and excited about whatever I'm learning.

Yes, because I can integrate my interests with the plans of the instructor's.

Very, Evergreen is one of those schools that allows you to lean as little or as much as you choose. If you want to satisfy a passion for knowledge and growth, your possibilities here are endless. If you want to screw around and under-appreciate your own capabilities and what the school has to offer, you might graduate, but you won't make it much further because you didn't learn a thing.

promotes critical thinking keeps me continuously challenging myself and my ideology/beliefs

Yes, because it allows me the opportunity to learn what I want and gives me the chance to take everything possible out of the experience.

yes, because it gives the individual freedom to choose what he/she wants to study AND helps to mature and grow with people that share similar interests and values.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me because it's something I need to work on. Later in life no one is going to be there to hold your hand. It's important to be independent and to push yourself as much as you can.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. Examining a topic from several different aspects is interesting and makes me care more about the topic.

Well Rounded Education (N=21)

Yes, many traditional students take classes that are related but are never presented to accentuated the connections. I feel that the interdisciplinary learning helps round people's education and leaves less questions as to why certain information is useful.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me!! I think it provides a rounded education and one that is needed to be an active involved person in today's world. It helps connect to ideas not only in the classroom but also once outside school it helps one connect larger issues to personal relations as well as drawing on multiple aspects of knowledge which creates a deeper understanding.

yes, we all need a rounded education

Yes. It is a nice alternative to traditional learning. It gives me a feeling of rounded out-ness in my education.

Yes, it gives me a well-roundedness, but is hard to explain to others.

very, it is a great tool for a well rounded education, and also can be helpful in revealing subject you may not know you are interested in.

yes! this style of learning makes more sense to me and offers one the ability to obtain a more well-rounded education, in my opinion.

Well Rounded Education (cont'd)

Yes, I can get a well rounded education. It's also nice that my teachers can communicate.

yes, i believe it makes you a more rounded person.

Yes, I think it's important to have a well rounded education.

YES - It's the only way to receive a WELL rounded indepth education

it is. I believe that regardless of your major, you should have a firm grounding in all fields of knowledge. You never know when it might be useful, and it is certainly useful to have more knowledge as opposed to less.

Yes. I think it is a key part of well-rounded learning.

Yes. That is why I chose Evergreen. I want a well rounded education.

Absolutely. Interdisciplinary learning has given me a more objective (and well rounded) perspective in my specific field of interest and in my life as a whole.

Yes it is an intresting approach that gives a well rounded academic learning environment.

Yes, it allows for easier specialization in many fields and creates a more rounded education.

Yes, I feel more well rounded and like I can apply my learning to real life.

Yes, people need to be well-rounded.

yes, because I gain a deeper understanding, and more rounded learning.

Of course. You need to have a broad choice of material to learn from, and know about different learning styles as an educated, well-rounded individual.

Broad range of experiences/ good general education (N=19)

It allows me to select the courses that are necessary to me and offer several disciplines concurrently. More comprehensive learning, to me.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because of my interests, like literature and philosophy are not as separated as I might have first thought when beginning. I believe studying both, and many other disciplines like philology, for example, help to elucidate my areas of interest, and give me a broader and deeper understanding of contexts and meanings.

Yes, because no subject is all that isolated, so much overlaps from other areas, and plays into a comprehensive understanding of the whole. For instance I came here to study filmmaking, I had no idea just how many fields were involved. I feel confident taking a career in anything involved in a production.

Yeah, it really shows me how my studies are connected to other students in other programs and really makes aware the lines where I could work with others to find a solution. It gives a more comprehensive learning style.

It's very important for me because to write you have to have a life. If my only focus was writing I would have any other experiences or knowledge to feed me as a writer.

Yes. Broadens learning experience

Very much so. It creates a broader, more useful knowledge base to use in the real world.

Yes. It presents a broader spectrum for experience, rather than students rushing through pre-requisite classes.

Yes, I believe it gives a broader perspective.

Yes, it is. I enjoy learning from a wide range of subjects, it gives a good "overview" of what's pertinent to my choice of studies.

it is. I believe that regardless of your major, you should have a firm grounding in all fields of knowledge. You never know when it might be useful, and it is certainly useful to have more knowledge as opposed to less.

Yes because it provides a base to learn from.

Anything that de-institutionalizes the learning process improves it. Introducing variety of any kind into a classroom enhances it (mostly).

yes, can't study anything in isolation; need a broader perspective

Yes, it helps me understand a wider variety of aspects within my chosen field.

Broad range of experiences/ good general education (cont'd)

Yes because it requires a depth and breadth of thought not used in focused learning

Yes, I feel it's important to have a broad and yet focused scope in my discipline while not being limited to traditional focuses that are highlighted in other universities.

Yes. It offers a broader range of experience.

Of course. You need to have a broad choice of material to learn from, and know about different learning styles as an educated, well-rounded individual.

Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus (N=18)

Yes; it brings much more focus to education plus provides a vehicle that connects all the different aspects of what we have learned together.

Yes. I can only compare full-time/daytime 16 credits to full-time/day-time 16 credits from unrelated classes. Issues are connected, so we can explore a few themes deeply with the same core faculty and students through the program instead of unrelated classes that might stretch me in different directions. Interdisciplinary provides a more enriching education environment.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because of my interests, like literature and philosophy are not as separated as I might have first thought when beginning. I believe studying both, and many other disciplines like philology, for example, help to elucidate my areas of interest, and give me a broader and deeper understanding of contexts and meanings.

Yes, it gives you an opportunity to focus and view more than one idea.

Yes because it allows me to learn a lot about a single subject.

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

Yes, it allows our focus of education to be expanded or narrowed as it needs to be in order to tailor to the professions that we seek after graduation.

YES - It's the only way to receive a WELL rounded indepth education

Yes I think interdisciplinary learning is a good way to learn because it helps engender a deeper understanding of the subject.

yes, because it allows be to learn a lot more about a subject or field

Yes, I think it's important to learn about the different facets and nuances of any subject.

Yes, because I've been able to get closer to coursework that relates to my primary academic interests.

Yes, because my program is "one thing" I can focus on.

Yes, it allows for easier specialization in many fields and creates a more rounded education.

yes, because I gain a deeper understanding, and more rounded learning.

Yes because it requires a depth and breadth of thought not used in focused learning

yes, I feel I can learn more and have better projects in the end

Yes, I feel it's important to have a broad and yet focused scope in my discipline while not being limited to traditional focuses that are highlighted in other universities.

Allows me to choose what I want to learn (N=18)

Absolutely, my interests are so rhizomatic and varied that I would feel constricted were I not privy to such a sundry education

It allows me to select the courses that are necessary to me and offer several disciplines concurrently. More comprehensive learning, to me.

Yes, I can study what I want and connect many subjects through interdisciplinary contracts.

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program].

Yes, because it allows for a much more effective synthesis of information, and leads to a better understanding in all subjects. Also, this allows room for much more personal exploration, research in areas that a person is specifically interested in.

Yes, there should be a lot of different choices for students.

Allows me to choose what I want to learn (cont'd)

It is important, because it makes me feel more valued as an individual student. I feel that I can study what inspires me the most and have my work noticed as education.

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

Yes it is, it just more relaxed, and made to fit the individual, instead of structured learning which fits no individual

Yes, it allows our focus of education to be expanded or narrowed as it needs to be in order to tailor to the professions that we seek after graduation.

I think it is very important for me because I can learn a lot of things which I want to learn.

Yes, this I learn what I need to learn.

Yes, because I've been able to get closer to coursework that relates to my primary academic interests.

Yes, because it gives me a chance to study what I want.

Yes, because it allows me the opportunity to learn what I want and gives me the chance to take everything possible out of the experience.

yes, because it gives the individual freedom to choose what he/she wants to study AND helps to mature and grow with people that share similar interests and values.

Yes it is, because it keeps my attention focused and avoids alot of mundane crap.

Because I got to study and focus on what I want and interested in.

Gives Context to What I am Learning (N=12)

It is; it is a means of presenting material to be learned in a manner that makes that material make sense in other contexts beyond class. It would be much less sensible to study subjects in isolation from each other, which I have done at other schools. Whether one is able to make connections between subjects or not, in a non-interdisciplinary setting it doesn't matter. At Evergreen those connections are the most important part of a student's learning.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me!! I think it provides a rounded education and one that is needed to be an active involved person in todays world. It helps connect to ideas not only in the classroom but also once outside school it helps one connect larger issues to personal relations as well as drawing on multiple aspects of knowledge which creates a deeper understanding.

Yes, holistic education is very important. One cannot remove an area of study out of its context, or all one's learning will be removed from the context of our society and our world. Interdisciplinary learning allows the student to connect cause and effect. For example, agricultural policies are not only related to the land and ecology, but also to the political economy and culture of different peoples.

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program]..

Yes. Interdisciplinary learning makes useful connections between subjects and gives a context to better understand the material. This is much better than when subjects are separated from each other, as they are then taught with much less applicability. Individual subjects become unimportant in my eyes and are quickly forgotten.

Yes, I want to be able to understand the importance and relevance of the communities and traditions I live amongst. Also being aware of all fields (of study or concern) gives me the ability to transfer knowledge and ideas.

Yes. Because nothing exists independently, so framing our learning in a way that values the reality that things are interconnected will have a positive and practical influence on the way we think about our lives and approach problem-solving.

Yes, because divisions between different subjects sometimes removes meaning and context from what is being taught.

yes it really brings to focus why learning any one thing is important.

It is important for me to consider how many subjects affect my field of study and how I can examine many topics through the lens of health and medicine.

Yes, it gives context to complex education

Yes, it's easier to understand everything when it actually relates to other things.

Good alternative to traditional teaching methods (N=8)

Yes! In the world, things are not separated by subject, it is best to learn in as natural a way as possible.

It is; it is a means of presenting material to be learned in a manner that makes that material make sense in other contexts beyond class. It would be much less sensible to study subjects in isolation from each other, which I have done at other schools. Whether one is able to make connections between subjects or not, in a non-interdisciplinary setting it doesn't matter. At Evergreen those connections are the most important part of a student's learning.

Yes, it highlights connections between subjects that are often unexpected, but are very connected in the world outside academia. It feels like a breath of fresh air to come out of a lifetime of traditional education where every subject is staunchly separate and into a world where I am forced to think about my education in real-world terms, not academic terms.

Of course, it is why I came to Evergreen. Segregated disciplines promotes continual linear approaches to problems in society.

Yes, it has enabled me to learn more than I could have had I had a 'major'

Yes. It is a nice alternative to traditional learning. It gives me a feeling of rounded out-ness in my education.

Its the future of education. Subject-independent learning doesn't make sense when compared to the benefits of interdisciplinarian approaches.

Yes, I am not successful, or interested in the traditional model.

Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills (N=8)

Yes. Because nothing exists independently, so framing our learning in a way that values the reality that things are interconnected will have a positive and practical influence on the way we think about our lives and approach problem-solving.

Yes, extremely so. A varied perspective on one area has open my eyes and created a true systems way of analyzing a subject and making informed decisions and perspectives that take into account multiple disciplines.

[The WA community college], where I earned an Associate of Arts degree, emphasized interdisciplinary learning. I learned early on that this method of learning is best for me. I'm interested in how different fields interact or how to apply the ideas of one field the problems or issues of another field.

Yes. Because I never truly know exactly what I want to learn. By combining subjects, I am given the exposure and flexibility to explore new topics and arenas of learning - not to mention, the ability to critically compare different academic approaches, with others, and under guidance of a professor.

Yes, interconnected worldview which is necessary for problem solving and integration.

Yes, I think the interdisciplinary learning helps students to "think on their feet"

yes very! Until we learn to grasp the plurality of the situation and issues we are all working on and until we are willing to use an intersectional analysis to develop solutions we will not make significant sustainable progress

promotes critical thinking keeps me continuously challenging myself and my ideology/beliefs

Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives (N=8)

Interdisciplinary study is important because it helps me to think about my focus of study from other perspectives, learn to negotiate with other peoples strengths and weaknesses and apply my talents to a wide purview of disciplines.

yes i learn more from my fellow students

Yes it allows me to engage and interact with my peers and faculty with the same interest or ideas. All bringing a different perspective or shedding new light upon one another.

Yes interdisciplinary learning is important to me because it helps to tie what you may be learning to the outside world and exposes one to a variety of opinions as well as points of view.

Yes. It helps me really understand what I am focusing on learning. It gives me different perspectives on a subject and keeps me interested and excited about whatever I'm learning.

Absolutely. I greatly value my ability to approach an issue from many different angles and through many lenses. I believe this is because of my interdisciplinary educational experience at TESC.

Absolutely, it offers a larger arena of education that includes multiple viewpoints.

Yes, I value a diverse perspectives of the subjects I have chosen to study.

Develops interpersonal skills (N=8)

I think specialization is against our nature as social, tribal, community-minded beings. We are not living as fully functional members of communities when we are too specialized. In contrast, interdisciplinary knowledge of many subjects and skills allows us to be connected to one another and the greater good, which is hopefully part of our future as humans.

Yes. I can only compare full-time/daytime 16 credits to full-time/day-time 16 credits from unrelated classes. Issues are connected, so we can explore a few themes deeply with the same core faculty and students through the program instead of unrelated classes that might stretch me in different directions. Interdisciplinary provides a more enriching education environment.

Interdisciplinary study is important because it helps me to think about my focus of study from other perspectives, learn to negotiate with other peoples strengths and weaknesses and apply my talents to a wide purview of disciplines.

Yeah, it really shows me how my studies are connected to other students in other programs and really makes aware the lines where I could work with others to find a solution. It gives a more comprehensive learning style.

Yes it allows me to engage and interact with my peers and faculty with the same interest or ideas. All bringing a different perspective or shedding new light upon one another.

Very important because it will prepare me in working with others in my career field. Plus, every kind of learning is important to me.

yes, because it gives the individual freedom to choose what he/she wants to study AND helps to mature and grow with people that share similar interests and values.

Yes, I have multi-perspective education, and like the contact with new students.

One of the reasons I attended Evergreen (N=7)

Of course, it is why I came to Evergreen. Segregated disciplines promotes continual linear approaches to problems in society.

yes, extremely. it's why i came to evergreen. especially when studying biology, because chemistry, microbiology, genetics ect are so interrelated. trying to study these subjects isolated from one another means not understanding each of them fully.

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning is essential to the Evergreen experience, the liberal arts experience, and in fact is the best means of preparing a student for the "real world." In a working environment, a person is expected to manage different types of tasks, thinking and working accross subject borders. Therefore, interdisciplinary learning provides relevant and necessary skills for any future career.

interdisciplinary learning is the reason that i am at evergreen. students don't realize that life IS interdisciplinary, and most graduates don't know how to apply what they learn to anything else.

Yes, Evergreen was my first choice of schools for specifically this reason.

Yes. That is why I chose Evergreen. I want a well rounded education.

Interdisciplinary study is one of the corner stones of the Evergreen State College and it should be continued in the future. It's one of the reasons I picked this school.

Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment (N=6)

Of course, it is why I came to Evergreen. Segregated disciplines promotes continual linear approaches to problems in society.

Yes, many traditional students take classes that are related but are never presented to accentuated the connections. I feel that the interdisciplinary learning helps round people's education and leaves less questions as to why certain information is useful.

Absolutely. When subject areas are compartmentalized, the application of the material seems to be lost in the "game of school."

Because I seek the answers to my intellectual and emotional questions heuristically, which means I have to follow a living, historical path that includes all disciplines. It would be completely artificial to limit my learning to any subset of disciplines.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is important to me. I do not think that it is possible to have as rich or as complex of a perspective on something if you are limited to only one epistemological framework.

Yes, I feel it's important to have a broad and yet focused scope in my discipline while not being limited to traditional focuses that are highlighted in other universities.

Gives you adaptability/flexibility (N=6)

Absolutely, my interests are so rhizomatic and varied that I would feel constricted were I not privy to such a sundry education

Yes. Because I never truly know exactly what I want to learn. By combining subjects, I am given the exposure and flexibility to explore new topics and arenas of learning - not to mention, the ability to critically compare different academic approaches, with others, and under guidance of a professor.

Yes, because it is important to make connections among different fields. Rarely is a person just interested in one field, but we are often forced to concentrate on one so that our skills are more marketable. This makes a person less flexible and is detrimental. HOWEVER, I don't think that Evergreen succeeds in this area. I have never taken an interdisciplinary program that felt well blended. The professors are rarely good at combining their knowledge, and it usually just feels like two programs in one.

From my experience last year, it was very important. I couldn't have allowed my project to flourish and be in lectures and workshops as a full-time student.

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

Yes, it allows our focus of education to be expanded or narrowed as it needs to be in order to tailor to the professions that we seek after graduation.

If properly implemented (N=5)

Yes, because it is important to make connections among different fields. Rarely is a person just interested in one field, but we are often forced to concentrate on one so that our skills are more marketable. This makes a person less flexible and is detrimental. HOWEVER, I don't think that Evergreen succeeds in this area. I have never taken an interdisciplinary program that felt well blended. The professors are rarely good at combining their knowledge, and it usually just feels like two programs in one.

It is, because I believe that most studies are connected to each other somehow, and drawing lines of division hinders progress. That said, I feel that Evergreen isn't really as interdisciplinary as it claims to be, and all too often I see students completing their degree having only studied a very narrow range of subjects.

Yes, extremely, my focus is very interdisciplinary, and there is VERY little support of upper division interdisciplinary work. I had a project that combined [several disciplines], and no professors had the time or willingness to sponsor my project. This was because of 2 reasons: there is more support and a lower student teacher ratio for Freshman students, and they didn't feel individually that they could give credit outside of their specialty.

Yes, when it is a solid well planned program it is amazing.

Very, Evergreen is one of those schools that allows you to lean as little or as much as you choose. If you want to satisfy a passion for knowledge and growth, you're possibilities here are endless. If you want to screw around and under-appreciate your own capabilities and what the school has to offer, you might graduate, but you won't make it much further because you didn't learn a thing.

Stimulating, engaging (N=5)

Yes because I like to make connections between disciplines. It has enriched my overall learning experience.

Yes; it's a whole approach to learning a subject - makes it more interesting, not so close-minded and linear.

Yes. It helps me really understand what I am focusing on learning. It gives me different perspectives on a subject and keeps me interested and excited about whatever I'm learning.

Interdisciplinary learning is important to me because without variety everything (especially academics) has a tendency to get stagnant.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. Examining a topic from several different aspects is interesting and makes me care more about the topic.

Interdisciplinary learning is very interesting/ enjoyable (N=5)

Yes; it's a whole approach to learning a subject - makes it more interesting, not so close-minded and linear.

yes it helps make the material interesting and relevant to the real world

Yes it is an interesting approach that gives a well rounded academic learning environment.

This is the first time I have been involved in interdisciplinary learning and enjoy it very much.

Interdisciplinary learning is very important to me. Examining a topic from several different aspects is interesting and makes me care more about the topic.

Lends diversity to a program (N=3)

Yes, I want to be able to understand the importance and relevance of the communities and traditions I live amongst. Also being aware of all fields (of study or concern) gives me the ability to transfer knowledge and ideas.

Yes. It allows me to make my own connections between what I have already identified as an 'area of interest' specifically to me, and with what ever other connections exist between that field and others. For example, I have been able to study Globalization in a contemporary political and cultural context regarding India especially, and a historical context through studying [in another program].

Anything that de-institutionalizes the learning process improves it. Introducing variety of any kind into a classroom enhances it (mostly).

Limited selection of programs (N=2)

It is, because I believe that most studies are connected to each other somehow, and drawing lines of division hinders progress. That said, I feel that Evergreen isn't really as interdisciplinary as it claims to be, and all too often I see students completing their degree having only studied a very narrow range of subjects.

yes, but i haven't been interested in the programs offered lately, and so haven't taken one in over a year.

Relationship with instructors (N=2)

Yes, I can get a well rounded education. It's also nice that my teachers can communicate.

Yes, because I can integrate my interests with the plans of the instructor's.

Need more 4 and 8 cr classes, need more half time programs/FT programs limit options, flexibility (N=1)

Yes. I've found these mixed classes to be an exceptional way of learning not only whatever the core focus of the class is, but how it affects the world at large. This focus has been present in all classes I've taken. Even the smaller 4 credit classes are imbued with a sense of needing to provide multiple disciplines into the subject. That said, there HAVE to be more 4 and 8 credit classes made available. There needs to not only be more of these classes in the evening but there really should be smaller classes provided during the day as well. The huge 16 credit courses are simply not possible for returning students to commit to. From my observations and anecdotal evidence from staff, graduates and other students, the people who get the most from Evergreen are the older students who are returning to school, and not the 18 and 19 year olds. There is a large adult student community and while we may be able to find a day or two a week to come to class during regular business hours, we certainly cannot manage the 16 credit courses that are the only options for far too many fields of study.

Helps with managing courseload (N=1)

Yes -- it makes balancing courseloads easier as well as having the benefits of studying many aspects of a subject.

Does not apply/ not using it (N=1)

Conceptually, yes. As one taking evening/weekend courses, however, it doesn't presently apply.

Can't code response (N=2)

In my case it is, as Biology and teaching are two different things and I need to know about both of them.

Yes, I was not a big fan of grades because I don't think it shows how well you are doing or understand something.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'No'

No, general (N=2)

no, I don't find it very helpful

Not really, organized classes and competent faculty are more important to me than interesting class titles.

Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=3)

not really--I have a specific area of focus

Not really, though I am not against it. Studying events in high levels of detail, reading a book that is 600 pages about Afganistan and the CIA, for example, is very important as well. The details can give a level of understanding that ID study cannot in myu opinion.

I would like to be able to focus more (zoom in) on the area I am interested in and TESC's policies are preventing me from doing that!

You can get stuck taking things you don't want to (N=1)

I would not say it is important to me, it can work out well, and seems great on paper. Although, I have found in practice, it can really get you stuck in something that you have no interest in, in another setup, a student could have a wide array of varying classes that may all be of interest to that person, but not necessarily tied together with a common theme.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Maybe or Yes with Conditions'

Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=7)

I like having a broad range of ideas coalesce into one program. However, it is frustrating that I can't take a basic acting or literature course. I also get frustrated that, in order to add a language, I have to go to 20 credits. Finally, I think it is hard to get serious grounding in a subject and that is what grad schools look for.

Yes, to a certain extent. I think it's especially important in the arts to have something to make art about. However I do think the amount of interdisciplinary education should still have a degree of focus to it.

I think interdisciplinary learning is great to an extent. When I started out at Evergreen, I found the interdisciplinary courses to be stimulating. I found interests in areas I didn't expect. But, as I progress at Evergreen, I truly appreciate being able to hone in on my exact interest. I would feel I was wasting my time if I were in an interdisciplinary course at this point.

Yes and No. In some ways I feel it to be very beneficial. In others, I feel it is too easy to lose focus on a subject.

Somewhat. I like to expand my knowledge, but I finally, at 55, have a focus in my life and want to concentrate on it.

Yes, though I have found it impossible to go in depth into anything until taking upper division. I would appreciate more specific classes in addition to the very multidisciplinary classes we have

yes but the opportunity to focus on your subject specifically is equally valuable

If properly implemented (N=6)

Interdisciplinary learning is important as long as it doesn't interfere with the overall focus of a program.

I like the approach, though at times some relatively irrelevant concepts get through and take up too much time, so I'd say that there's good and bad sides to that.

I think interdisciplinary learning is very important, but I'm worried that too many times that approach is handled in the wrong way... adding lots of "fluff" aspects of multiple disciplines instead of focusing on real worthwhile skills and information.

Yes, as long as it is structured well

Very important if done right.

It is if the professors are able to stay focused on the purpose and not get sidetracked. That was my largest problem with the programs... teachers seemed to easily get off subject.

Traditional classes are good too (N=3)

Yes, because it makes connections between different fields easier to see, but not to the point that it's hard to find basic courses to experiment in.

It was its benefits, but the single discipline classes are also valuable. It is good having both options.

yes but the opportunity to focus on your subject specifically is equally valuable

Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Maybe or Yes with Conditions' (cont'd)

Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests (N=3)

I think interdisciplinary learning is great to an extent. When I started out at Evergreen, I found the interdisciplinary courses to be stimulating. I found interests in areas I didn't expect. But, as I progress at Evergreen, I truly appreciate being able to hone in on my exact interest. I would feel I was wasting my time if I were in an interdisciplinary course at this point.

Somewhat. I like to expand my knowledge, but I finally, at 55, have a focus in my life and want to concentrate on it.

Interdisciplinary learning has not been entirely effective for me at Evergreen, but the paths I've taken since moving on to independent study have been greatly influenced by the programs I was a part of my freshman year.

Need more 4 and 8 cr classes, need more half time programs/FT programs limit options, flexibility (N=3)

I like having a broad range of ideas coalesce into one program. However, it is frustrating that I can't take a basic acting or literature course. I also get frustrated that, in order to add a language, I have to go to 20 credits. Finally, I think it is hard to get serious grounding in a subject and that is what grad schools look for.

Yes it is important to me, but I think it is overrated at Evergreen. There are some classes (as opposed to programs) that would be difficult to teach appropriately in an interdisciplinary context, such as organic chem, calc, stats, etc., that would be incredibly useful when applying for grad school, but are difficult to work into my schedule with a 16 credit program. I'd like to see 12 credit programs with more 4-6 credit classes available.

Yes, though I have found it impossible to go in depth into anything until taking upper division. I would appreciate more specific classes in addition to the very multidisciplinary classes we have

Helps synthesize information (N=2)

I like having a broad range of ideas coalesce into one program. However, it is frustrating that I can't take a basic acting or literature course. I also get frustrated that, in order to add a language, I have to go to 20 credits. Finally, I think it is hard to get serious grounding in a subject and that is what grad schools look for.

Yes, because it makes connections between different fields easier to see, but not to the point that it's hard to find basic courses to experiment in.

Limited selection of programs (N=2)

Yes, however I worry that I will not be able to cover as many fields of study as I could in smaller courses. Because of this I try to mix evening and weekend courses with programs. Also, I have been disappointed with the lack of African based programs, especially African history.

Yes, it is. The need for more of a variety of program courses inclusive of business and administrative subjects is important. After all, TESC offers an MPA program for Evening and Weekend students. The Winter and Spring quarters are getting worse every year as far as variety and week-night offerings.

Interdisciplinary format is a hindrance for future learning endeavors (N=2)

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Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Maybe or Yes with Conditions' (cont'd)

Gives context to what I am learning (N=1)

Yes, to a certain extent. I think it's especially important in the arts to have something to make art about. However I do think the amount of interdisciplinary education should still have a degree of focus to it.

You can get stuck taking things you don't want to (N=1)

Yes, but sometimes it is too much in 16 credits because you can be forced to do one aspect that you really dislike because it's sandwiched in with 14 credit's worth of amazingness.

Well Rounded Education (N=1)

Yes, to a certain extent. I think it's especially important in the arts to have something to make art about. However I do think the amount of interdisciplinary education should still have a degree of focus to it.

Stimulating, engaging (N=1)

I think interdisciplinary learning is great to an extent. When I started out at Evergreen, I found the interdisciplinary courses to be stimulating. I found interests in areas I didn't expect. But, as I progress at Evergreen, I truly appreciate being able to hone in on my exact interest. I would feel I was wasting my time if I were in an interdisciplinary course at this point.

Broad range of experiences/ good general education (N=1)

Yes in moderation, interdisciplinary broadens horizons.

Lends diversity to a program (N=1)

Yes, to a certain extent. I think it's especially important in the arts to have something to make art about. However I do think the amount of interdisciplinary education should still have a degree of focus to it.

Can't code response (N=1)

Only if it truly covers topics that I want to learn

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Unsure'

Unsure, general (N=3)

I have no strong feelings either way.

I don't know.

Not sure

If properly implemented (N=1)

I think so? So far it hasn't made very much sense, but if done well it could be crucial to becoming a renaissance man!

Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment (N=1)

Interdisciplinary learning is something that I am still getting used to. It is an interesting method, and seems to be more effective at teaching critical thinking than traditional schooling styles.

Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills (N=1)

Interdisciplinary learning is something that I am still getting used to. It is an interesting method, and seems to be more effective at teaching critical thinking than traditional schooling styles.

Don't know what it is/ Unclear on what interdisciplinary learning is (N=1)

I think so. I'm still trying to wrap my mind around it.

Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (N=1)

I don't know if it's important, but I certainly think it's a good way to learn.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?
Student Responses That Could Not be Categorized (N=6)

I'm evening and weekend. Interdisciplinary doesn't really seem to apply.

?

what is that?

I'm not totally sure what that is.

I am not sure what that is exactly.

What?