

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

### Expectations

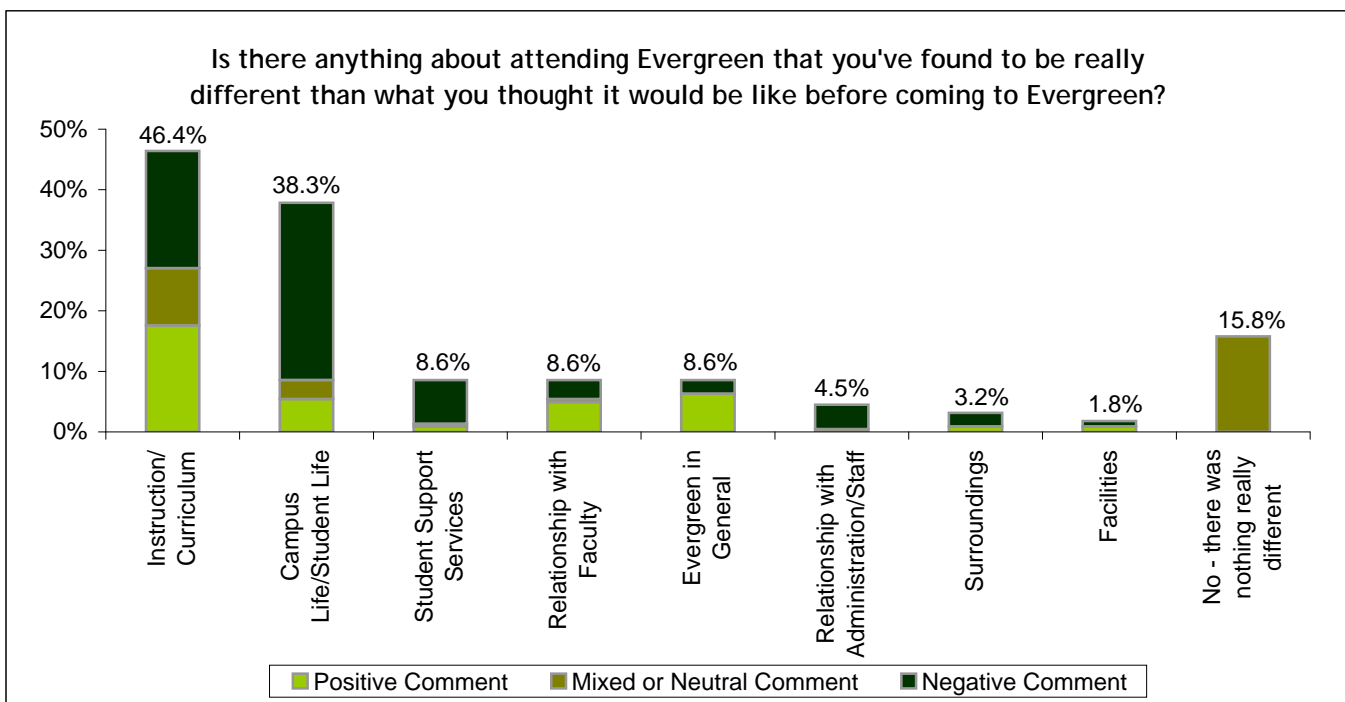
Students were asked the open-ended question "Is there anything about attending Evergreen that you've found to be really different than what you thought it would be like before coming to Evergreen? (Good or bad)."

Responses were grouped into general categories and by whether the response was positive, negative, mixed, or neutral. The distribution of comments is summarized below in descending order of frequency.

*Is there anything about attending Evergreen that you've found to be really different than what you thought it would be like before coming to Evergreen?*

(N=222, 108 skipped the question)

	Positive	Mixed/Neutral	Negative	Total
Instruction/ Curriculum	17.6%	9.5%	19.4%	46.4%
Campus Life/Student Life	5.4%	3.2%	29.3%	38.3%
Student Support Services	0.9%	0.5%	7.2%	8.6%
Relationship with Faculty	5.0%	0.5%	3.2%	8.6%
Evergreen in General	6.3%	-	2.3%	8.6%
Relationship with Administration/Staff	0.5%	-	4.1%	4.5%
Surroundings	0.9%	-	2.3%	3.2%
Facilities	0.9%	-	0.9%	1.8%
No - there was nothing really different	-	15.8%	-	15.8%
Can't Code	0.0%	-	0.5%	0.5%



Is there anything about attending Evergreen that you've found to be really different than what you thought it would be like before coming to Evergreen?\*

Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=39)

My expectations were exceeded in gaining professional exposure and an gaining-depth education in Ecology, Natural History and Botany. Thank you. the rain kills me. The availability and quality of facilities in my fields—[three Expressive Arts]-- are Outstanding. The student body is not as ethnically diverse as I thought it would be. This will sound mean, but there are a lot of people here who just aren't that smart. It saps my energy to be around people who don't share my intense desire to learn, or who lack basic skills in writing and logical reasoning. I'd like to be at a school that accepts less than 98% of its applicants.

It's not really the "Hippie" college as most people believe. I'm [over 40] and most of my friends first comments are "How is it over there?" I think it's great, I have enjoyed my classmates, class structure, and teachers.

I didn't expect to find such a thriving and inspiring science department. happily surprised!

I had a great experience with Evening and Weekend Studies. The seminars were more productive than I thought they would be. And the age diversity was refreshing.

interdisciplinary learning, seminars, etc. better learning environment than I expected

I thought there would be more acceptance of all types, I feel like because I'm white and I've female people assume I haven't experienced any social injustice or survived a traumatic event. I was also surprised by the amount of rigid political-correctness; I know it's important to acknowledge cultural differences and respect that, but when did that translate into everyone turning into the "sensitivity police"? I think there's a lot of tension and people are always looking for the "oppressors", in some ways this has made me make a point of being politically incorrect, we take ourselves too seriously, and you can't accomplish much in life if you can't laugh. Academically, Evergreen is everything I've ever wanted; the programs I've taken have all been important in some way, even the ones that weren't what I expected, I've learned that no matter what situation I'm in (academically), I can make the best of it and always come out having learned something conducive.

Classes awesome

amazing science dept.

A very progressive and conscious student body has been a wonderful plus. The accessibility of faculty and the desire to see learning occur.

i had no idea how much i would grow as a student through seminars, field trips, readings/films and so much more! it was a struggle, and i hope to use the support services more next year to help me reach my goals and dreams. i am now working with first people's advising and so happy - i should have checked in sooner! thank you for being such an amazing place of learning and growing!

I was surprised by how comfortable students are with each other and faculty.

I have met friends that I very much get along with. My class has been fantastic, I love Evergreen. but...

I really like the classrooms and I didn't think the students would be like they are but I survived.

Science programs are rigorous

While expecting to be challenged academically, I was not expecting to be challenged in the particular manners I have been so far and that has forced me to grow in new and unexpected ways for the better.

i was surprised and glad that my coursework was/is as rigorous as it was/is.

I thought there would be tons of annoying hippies; in reality there are only a few, and they aren't even as I envisioned them. I admit it, it sounds really stupid. On the other hand, this furtive, pseudo-anarchist rabble-rousing business isn't my cup of tea either. There is quite a bit of small minded contention going on where there a public forum to address the grievances people have about the workings of the school. I'm quite surprised at the quality of instruction that I have gotten at Evergreen. My professors at Evergreen miles beyond those I've had at other institutions.

It doesn't feel like there is a connected community-nevertheless I love the education that I am getting.

Interdisciplinary learning is so much more beneficial than I ever thought it could be.

Intolerance of others' opinions and views, extreme blind anarchism and "anti" news... the social situation in general and race relations are different (overzealous tokenism and eggshell-walking of Day of absence/Presence). The real world applications and community connection were good surprise

Not really. I was pleasantly surprises by independent contracts though they have done a lot for me.

*\*Comments were redacted as necessary to protect student identities*

## Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

In choosing evergreen i had been hoping that i would find a school that truly transcended the clique's and rivalries apparent in every other school i've attended since i began grade school. I admit that this was a lofty hope, however the promise of a tolerant, diverse community on campus raised my hopes. Unfortunately, what i have discovered at evergreen is that while the uniforms are different, the people seem to be just as intolerant and immature as those i have observed at other institutions. Gangs of people in hippie costumes are just as judgmental as jocks, druggies replace preps, but the actions are no different. That said, i cannot really offer any suggestions, young people will be naive and idealistic when presented many of the political and economic ideas that are present at evergreen. And human nature is human nature, so i'm not especially surprised that kids are still being kids. However, evergreen literature did promise a different experience, and academically at least, it was correct.

I've found that the curriculum is arranged in a manner that I can achieve outrageous goals when seen in the light of my skimp educational background. I originally thought that I would be quite limited in my area of study but it seems that the programs are generated in such a way that I am able to astonish myself on a somewhat regular basis. I originally though that the social environment would be easy for me to interface with--it is not.

There is a disheartening rift between administration and faculty/students. Faculty and students live up to my expectations. They are generally open-minded, well-read, and well-rounded. I find the learning community to be very rewarding, and I appreciate the community dynamics. However, the administration disappoints me. It is very disorganized and sometimes makes life harder for the students by communicating poorly and making mistakes with paperwork. In addition, administration does not seem to be on the same page as the rest of the school. It makes choices that run counter to what the students and faculty desire and does not always consult them properly. I feel like the administration is trying to make Evergreen more marketable by cleaning up its image and making it less radical, but this runs counter to the philosophy on which the school was founded. Stop trying to make us normal!

The sciences at Evergreen are one of its strongest points.

The reading workload is much more than I thought. Writing is not the same at all as what I was used to in a conventional institution. The Orissi Dance program is amazingly impressive and very professional. It has a nice balance of beginning classes with professional level training.

I thought I'd be really involved in student and community organizations. Well, I ended up focusing more on staying afloat, both academically and financially. Realistically, I don't have much time or energy to be a part of the communities that I want to. This has been a big bummer for me. I feel a lot of pressure to make the most of my education (without accumulating too much debt), cuz after this I will be thrust out into the "real world" again, and I don't want to get stuck washing dishes or babysitting 40+ hours a week again. It is unfortunate that this is the case, because I think that a lot of learning happens through volunteering or working with different community organizations. I will eventually use Evergreen to do internships or contracts so that I can fulfill this desire of mine, however, I would mostly like to utilize the school for its learning opportunities within the classroom setting. I have also learned, through Evergreen, that it is up to me to create my world. If something isn't working for me, I need to draw up a plan to fix it, using the resources I have. I like the fact that, at Evergreen, nobody does it for you... If you ask for help, you can get it, but you need to articulate what you need and how the faculty or administration can help you. This is a valuable skill to have.

The faculty have been really great and I think this is because the small class sizes give them more options for teaching ie workshops, group work, etc

I was worried that having the freedom to choose what I wanted to learn would be too much to handle. As it turns out I have been most motivated by my ability to pursue my interests however I see fit.

Being mostly satisfied with the program structure.

I love the smallness of the campus and the trees everywhere; the small class sizes, and the recycling program

ILC. They are perfect for me.

I was surprised at how active a role the students are assigned in their own learning experience. This was inspiring for me, and I used it to grow as both a person and as a learner.

the library has fewer resources than I expected. i'm incredibly impressed by the amount of alternative opportunities (independent study, study abroad, etc.). i feel like i could make any crazy idea a reality with a little initiative.

I love the options of learning that the college offers.

There is far more diversity then what originally came to mind and the emphasis on educating rather than simply handing out numbers and letters has become monumental.

I was surprised at the amount of Non-Traditional and Returning students on campus. As a returning student it was nice to be accepted into the Evergreen community by my faculty, staff, and other students. The worst part about returning to school was fearing that I would stand out, and the best part was discovering that I could stand out.

## Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

### MIXED AND NEUTRAL COMMENTS (N=21)

Some of the programs I have takin' have been really good, but most of them have had lower expectations then most high school classes.

Often classes are successful, or most spectacularly NOT successful, based on relationships between the faculty and students. I didn't expect that, but learned to adapt quickly.

Thought there would be more student run services... Thought it would be more diverse... Nearly always thought classes would be different than they turned out.

I wasn't as aware of the seminar structure of classes as i should have been. I wasn't able to visit the campus and I m not sure i would have decided to accept that format but am finding it agreeable.

Some of the classes and ideas in the classes I find fun and interesting to study but hold no purpose for future use.

I thought it would be a little harder although my expectations for college were very harsh.

I didn't think I would connect with as many people as I have. I feel I have become more social, a lot of people including faculty are very excepting people. I wasn't to fond of road trips or field trips taken by some programs, I try to avoid certain ones like that. Getting use to the educational system was a little difficult but once I did I found it easier to learn and found myself really self driven about my school work. I am an athlete at Evergreen and would like to see more support mainly from the school. I feel that most teachers or faculty don't care about a lot of the sports. I feel like some the athletics are under-funded and that the school boards don't support their athletics as much as they should. I think Evergreen should be proud they have good athletes at the school and should show more support.

didn't realize how much science they had here, didn't realize how popular it was to out of state students. Fewer cute freshmen girls than had hoped I'm pleasantly surprised at how many of the "kids" are very thoughtful with excellent critical thinking skills. I'm also very disappointed in mow many of the kids, adults and apparently even some of the faculty seem to lack these same skills.

evaluations in stead of grades, taking a program in stead of a number of classes, campus food does not have a variety. i am intimidated by the number of racially major students, but at the same time, most of the students at Evergreen are fairy open minded about everything.

I really like that most of the Evening and Weekend Studies faculty have other fulltime jobs. The classes that I have taken from those individuals have been geared toward folks that who work 40+ hours a week and are older than 30. I am 50+ so I don't feel like a lot of the questions on this survey pertained to my reasons for attending Evergreen. What surprised me was that fulltime students that live on campus are attending the evening and weekend classes even though it is possible for them to attend during the day.

I came to Evergreen immediately after graduating from a Waldorf high school. I expected an interdisciplinary education similar to what I received at my high school, but wasn't quite sure what to expect. I am very satisfied with the education I've received in the sciences but found the Art/Culture classes to "fluffy".

No, but I do wish that we had a supporting connection to a media school.

i thought it was going to be a lot easier then it was, but I'm glad that i was challenged over this year. I also thought there would be more diversity in the daytime programs.

Scientific studies are more difficult than I thought they would be.

Thought there'd be more structure, but all worked out for the best.

Evergreen is very "sink or swim;" I had to get use to keeping on top of several aspects of my academic life after transferring to Evergreen from a 4 year university.

Quality of program information and educational opportunities exceeded expectations. Difficulties getting into programs that I liked due to overcrowding (prior to this year since I am now a senior and get to register first.)

The focus on programs at Evergreen is good for people who know what they want to study, but it is much too difficult to experiment with smaller classes unless you do mostly evening/weekend courses.

## Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

### MIXED AND NEUTRAL COMMENTS (cont'd)

A lot of seminar time and not much "teacher talk time" at all.

I didn't think I'd learn as much useful information as I have. Interdisciplinary learn is the ultimate in education: everything you learn in the classroom is applicable to life. Connections are made in the classroom that I completely was not expecting (GOOD). As for the bad, I'm very disappointed in the availability of classes and the amount of classes offered; especially in Spring quarter. If you don't enroll in a year-long program, you're essentially out of luck for winter and spring quarters. Quite frankly, if I only have two years left for my BA, I don't want half of my learning spent on one program--no mater how diverse. I have limited funds and want to learn about as many different subjects and fields in relation to literature/English as possible in my two years.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=43)

When I applied to TESC, I noticed the acceptance rates were higher than most schools. From my experiences this year, they still are. I wish the administration would have lowered tuition rates and that admissions would be much more selective. I think there are too many negative influences in the classroom as well as in Housing. [In housing] I got to see a lot of behavior that is very unhealthy for a learning environment. I think this could be effectively eliminated if the entrance essay was no longer optional and the SAT & ACT requirements were higher. Initially I thought the lower standards would bring students with hidden talents and unmeasurable potential. My experience has confirmed almost the opposite. I have neighbors who deal drugs (not the harmless kind either) and will someday have diplomas from The Evergreen State College. When I graduate in June and look back at this school later in life, I want to be proud of having this diploma, not ashamed.

Bad: 1. a lot of angry or unsocial young people 2. it's a lot more provincial than I thought; Evergreen focuses too much on drawing students from the local area (Olympia, Thurston, Lewis) when they could have a much broader appeal, in other Western Wash. counties and throughout the State. 3. There is no way to get here other than driving [approximately 45 miles from another county]. I would love a bus or train with easy connection to the college. 4. Evening and Weekend classes that are offered on two weekdays for two hours are not user-friendly. One night a week for a more extended time works much better for commuters and the employed. 5. Evergreen's Financial Aid Office needs to develop a statement that a lay person can read, not just an accountant. It is VERY difficult to interpret.

After talking with advisor's and looking on line it looked like the ability to study sustainable design and ecobuilding would be easy and very available. This is not the case, i have rung the "sustainable design/building" resources dry and am very unhappy with what I found and got back. I was told by a faculty member that coming to Evergreen for such a major was not smart, he is one of the few involved in this area of study here at school, which is almost non-existent. The website and advisor's were misleading.

[One of my relatives] received [a] Master's degree here before I began attending so I knew some of what to expect. I have by and large been delighted with the professors I know and interact with and have only been disappointed by how few classes are available in the Evening/Weekend program.

I was not expecting as much racial tension in the classrooms as I found. The curriculum forces people to talk about race, which is good. What is not good is being one of, if not the only, person of color in a room full of white people who don't even think race is important or that racism exists. There needs to be some sort of preparatory learning before it gets to seminar.

I didn't expect so much latent racism. I didn't expect to have to teach privileged kids about privilege. I expected more support from faculty in seminar. I expected more community. I had to look for it. I expected to love Evergreen and I do!

I wasn't expecting there to be so many illogical anarchists. How a school can ever make me feel so conservative is beyond me. But on a more serious note, I wish Evergreen was able to have higher admission standards. The lack of basic skills of others in my core program my frosh year amazed me. Critical reasoning abilities were lower than I thought appropriate for college in many of my peers throughout my years at Evergreen.

I came to evergreen thinking there would be a lot of env. sci programs there are not enough, students rarely get into the program they want.

Yes, I actually was very surprised with everything when I came to evergreen. There was very little diversity in student body, i didn't understand how class worked and couldn't get the ones I wanted, usually, and I had no idea how to function without grades.

I found that I could rely a bit less on program descriptions than on what the faculty of the program specialize in, to anticipate what would be covered in the program. A lot of the time you learn the faculty's expertise more than what is discussed in program descriptions. I also wish the accessibility of Media Services was better advertised. it's hard to feel like you have access unless you're in Media program/contract...

Students teaching student was awful, I would have liked my teacher lectures and input on readings my fellow students ( I felt) had less of a clue.

## Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I thought there would be more narrative film making courses offered, or at least that it would be available; instead, I have found that it is purposely avoided. I am quite disappointed in this. I thought that downtown Olympia was closer, and more integrated into the campus community. I thought there would be more black people, or at least more people of color in general. I dislike how white the campus is.

Violence is endorsed a lot more than I expected and slight racism and classism towards upper-class, white, and male. Thought it would be more effectively interdisciplinary/more ride share.

Difficulty of getting into classes- programs fill up, and it's a huge setback when or if you are unable to get into the program of your choice. Often, the alternatives are not close enough to what your plan is, making second or third choices not very great to choose from. If some classes are very sought-after, I think it would be a good idea to offer programs that are similar, especially if over 20 students express interest.

I chose Evergreen because of not only its interdisciplinary approach to education, but also the idea of learning from your peers. But what I have found is that without a system in place to hold students accountable the programs fall to the lowest denominator. This can be very frustrating for those that are at the top of the curve.

Faculty changing programs every year. It seems like they never have a chance to "master" a subject.

There is way more room to slack at this school than I thought possible. The only reason evaluations are better than grades is if you are a slacker and don't do your work. I thought there would be a lot of cool unique people but I realize half the people on campus are ignorant.

I could not believe I wasn't allowed to take the classes I needed for my degree! Why is Evergreen discriminating between years in college - as a Junior I wasn't allowed to take a class because it was supposedly meant only for freshmen and sophomores, that is just not fair! Someone needs to do something about all classes getting filled up so quickly and people who really need those for their degrees are not let in!

I find that the evaluations produce more anxiety for me over the course of the quarter than my years of graded classes at [a WA Community College]. Not having concrete expectations in the form of grades, percentages, etc. seems like full credit is awarded subjectively. And personally, I know I put in too much time and energy, to the point of physical and emotional exhaustion, because it's the only way I can be sure to get full credit. Though the syllabi that I have received at Evergreen do have requirements like attendance, projects, and seminar papers, there's nothing that says, if you work really hard and get average results, you still get full credit for your effort. That would be helpful. Or C-level work (75% or better) will earn you full credit. Something concrete, not subjective.

I do not use computers much. I would love to see computer workshops for older students. I would love to get a mailer on what's going on at Evergreen from time to time.

I thought the younger people in classes would be more open-minded about differing opinions and experiences. The opposite seems to be true.

Faculty. I thought that there would be more student-teacher time, but sometimes they don't even remember names of students, the classes are so full. Faculty support has been the problem, them having the time to help individually. Also, wait listing problems, too many students, not enough classes.

I thought there would be more opportunities to get involved in media/computer related programs... but it seems like those programs are few in number and highly competitive. Instead I feel drowned in a sea of what boils down to "social justice" and "philosophy" class options that, while most likely well-meaning, seem very fluffy and nebulous in their focus with very little real skill pay-offs!

It's pretty much what I expected, except for a lack of more than one serious writing courses or multimedia courses.

There's no help getting finding jobs after graduation and the theater programs are terrible

I've found it to be MORE politically correct than I expected. While I understand why this is the case, I have experienced many cases where individuals are overly-aggressive or defensive in p.c. terms are not used. In these cases, I feel that the discussion being held was limited due to such responses. (When trying to discuss Shakespeare, I believe that we should be able to discuss other aspects of the text than the "domineering role of male characters" and so on.) While issues of race, sex, etc. are hugely important, I believe that we should be able to work with and around them, rather than having them overshadow all other academic discourse on a text.

The classes are not as in depth in the certain fields as I think it could/should be. Teachers have to much power when it comes to taking credits from you and if you try to address it through the channels they say the teacher has the last word.

There are many students who don't work nearly as hard as they should.

All of the programs I have taken have been disorganized and frustrating. I now do independent study only.

## Instruction/Curriculum

*Includes comments pertaining to programs, courses, the classroom, instruction, class availability, accuracy of class descriptions*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I wasn't expecting the radically liberal students to be as aggressive as they are. It's very off-putting. I thought there would be more course choices each quarter.

The classes are structured so it's hard to get/ maintain a job. Teachers are inconsiderate when dealing with students who work. Financial Aid has been a huge problem for me every year, this year I didn't receive my aid until spring quarter. Being an out of state student with no help from my family has been a huge problem for me, out of state tuition went up but the aid didn't rise adequately. This became especially hard when I was unable to get another job due to class structure.

Not enough visual art classes/space for them. Thought there would be adequate amount of offerings but have been disappointed.

I thought the seminar process would be a lot more beneficial than it turned out to be. It is actually usually pretty pointless.

Not enough elective computer courses Evening and Weekends

The opening for registration is difficult on a time schedule basis. Each quarter, I am assigned a specific date to which I may enroll in classes. This puts me at an unfair advantage to others who are scheduled before me. It also is quite ironic because I am VA funded and the college is guaranteed my financial obligations. Why am I made to wait and loose out on possible enrollments to the classes I which to attend? This consistently leads me to the waitlist process. With full time employment, I cannot afford to go on certain nights, so, sometimes the desired class itself is a matter of timing, not preference. The waitlist pain creates havoc on my ability to attend some quarters.

Not enough program offerings for those interested in photography! Which for me is bad.

Interdisciplinary learning has not been as incorporated into my course of study as I had anticipated.

The concept of taking one program is very confusing when first attending Evergreen. There needs to be some type of explanation of this before freshman are expected to register.

Group projects quickly turn into the most capable members of the group doing the lion's share of the work. Smart students often intimidated into silence in seminar because of the nature of their opinions. Faculty not exempt from this.

I thought that the classes would be more rigorous and challenging, but they were not. I have tried to remedy this by taking "upper division" and graduate/MPA classes, but that didn't make much of a difference. I feel like during my time at Evergreen I have just stayed at "status quo" a lot of times.

Many of the classes I was interested in taking have a year to two years of prerequisite classes. As a transfer student I was deeply disappointed and angry that Evergreen advertises itself as a school where students can take any class and learn what they feel they need to learn. If classes do not have required prerequisite classes I find that they usually require a faculty signature. Evergreen claims that it is a school that is open to every student but is actually run on favoritism. The inner politics of this school has interfered with my education multiple times. I feel that my requests and questions at Evergreen have been approached by the faculty with suspicion and outrage.

Classes are too hard to get into. Also important academic classes in writing as a career are few and far between.

I thought that it would not be as time consuming or as challenging as other colleges I looked at. I was wrong! I did not anticipate having to read so many seminar books. I wish that reading was not so much.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=12)

In the past [over 10 years ago] when I came to the campus, Evergreen was a place that did not accept the political right. Now it seems to be more tolerant of them. Perhaps it is me?

It's not really the "Hippie" college as most people believe. I'm [over 40] and most of my friends first comments are "How is it over there?" I think it's great, I have enjoyed my classmates, class structure, and teachers.

The acceptance level is amazing.

Yes. Everyone dresses crazy! I love it. Other than that Evergreen doing alright.

A very progressive and conscious student body has been a wonderful plus. The accessibility of faculty and the desire to see learning occur.

I have met friends that I very much get along with. My class has been fantastic, I love Evergreen. but...

I didn't think I would connect with as many people as I have. I feel I have become more social, a lot of people including faculty are very excepting people. I wasn't too fond of road trips or field trips taken by some programs, I try to avoid certain ones like that. Getting use to the educational system was a little difficult but once I did I found it easier to learn and found myself really self driven about my school work. I am an athlete at Evergreen and would like to see more support mainly from the school. I feel that most teachers or faculty don't care about a lot of the sports. I feel like some the athletics are under-funded and that the school boards don't support their athletics as much as they should. I think Evergreen should be proud they have good athletes at the school and should show more support.

I was not expecting the radicalism. But now I feel it's a rare opportunity to learn in an environment like that. Sounds weird, I know, but it's good to live a young life you can tell stories about.

There is greater diversity in age than I had expected.

There is a disheartening rift between administration and faculty/students. Faculty and students live up to my expectations. They are generally open-minded, well-read, and well-rounded. I find the learning community to be very rewarding, and I appreciate the community dynamics. However, the administration disappoints me. It is very disorganized and sometimes makes life harder for the students by communicating poorly and making mistakes with paperwork. In addition, administration does not seem to be on the same page as the rest of the school. It makes choices that run counter to what the students and faculty desire and does not always consult them properly. I feel like the administration is trying to make Evergreen more marketable by cleaning up its image and making it less radical, but this runs counter to the philosophy on which the school was founded. Stop trying to make us normal!

People here are smart. different, friendly, creative and wonderful. I was afraid people would be jerks.

There is far more diversity then what originally came to mind and the emphasis on educating rather than simply handing out numbers and letters has become monumental.

I was surprised at the amount of Non-Traditional and Returning students on campus. As a returning student it was nice to be accepted into the Evergreen community by my faculty, staff, and other students. The worst part about returning to school was fearing that I would stand out, and the best part was discovering that I could stand out.



## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### MIXED AND NEUTRAL COMMENTS (N=7)

I'd heard drug use was a lot more widespread than it turned out to be.

Though I think it is wonderful that Evergreen allows its students to run the programs it does hinder Evergreen as well. I have had extremely poor experiences with Housing in particular, but other programs because of the ineffectiveness of the staff. I do not believe my fellow students are capable of running these places without major help from individuals who are more qualified and experienced.

I thought there would be tons of annoying hippies; in reality there are only a few, and they aren't even as I envisioned them. I admit it, it sounds really stupid. On the other hand, this furtive, pseudo-anarchist rabble-rousing business isn't my cup of tea either. There is quite a bit of small minded contention going on where there a public forum to address the grievances people have about the workings of the school. I'm quite surprised at the quality of instruction that I have gotten at Evergreen. My professors at Evergreen miles beyond those I've had at other institutions.

evaluations in stead of grades, taking a program in stead of a number of classes, campus food does not have a variety. i am intimidated by the number of racially major students, but at the same time, most of the students at Evergreen are fairly open minded about everything.

Very laid back

I originally though that you had to attend all the protests in order to go to Evergreen. Thank goodness this is optional. I am so against the protests. I also thought you had to be a pot smoker to join Evergreen. I am not a pot smoker, but there are very little alternatives for someone who wants to stay away pot smokers and the only alternative for housing is substance free which requires no consumption of alcohol.

There's less patchouli than I'd imagined.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=65)

When I applied to TESC, I noticed the acceptance rates were higher than most schools. From my experiences this year, they still are. I wish the administration would have lowered tuition rates and that admissions would be much more selective. I think there are too many negative influences in the classroom as well as in Housing. [In housing] I got to see a lot of behavior that is very unhealthy for a learning environment. I think this could be effectively eliminated if the entrance essay was no longer optional and the SAT & ACT requirements were higher. Initially I thought the lower standards would bring students with hidden talents and unmeasurable potential. My experience has confirmed almost the opposite. I have neighbors who deal drugs (not the harmless kind either) and will someday have diplomas from The Evergreen State College. When I graduate in June and look back at this school later in life, I want to be proud of having this diploma, not ashamed.

Bad: 1. a lot of angry or unsocial young people 2. it's a lot more provincial than I thought; Evergreen focuses too much on drawing students from the local area (Olympia, Thurston, Lewis) when they could have a much broader appeal, in other Western Wash. counties and throughout the State. 3. There is no way to get here other than driving [approximately 45 miles from another county]. I would love a bus or train with easy connection to the college. 4. Evening and Weekend classes that are offered on two weekdays for two hours are not user-friendly. One night a week for a more extended time works much better for commuters and the employed. 5. Evergreen's Financial Aid Office needs to develop a statement that a lay person can read, not just an accountant. It is VERY difficult to interpret.

the rain kills me. The availability and quality of facilities in my fields—[three Expressive Arts]-- are Outstanding. The student body is not as ethnically diverse as I thought it would be. This will sound mean, but there are a lot of people here who just aren't that smart. It saps my energy to be around people who don't share my intense desire to learn, or who lack basic skills in writing and logical reasoning. I'd like to be at a school that accepts less than 98% of its applicants.

I thought Evergreen would be engaging radical, and provide me with the tools I needed to take my life in a positive direction. I was wrong.

I didn't expect so much latent racism. I didn't expect to have to teach privileged kids about privilege. I expected more support from faculty in seminar. I expected more community. I had to look for it. I expected to love Evergreen and I do!

I wasn't expecting there to be so many illogical anarchists. How a school can ever make me feel so conservative is beyond me. But on a more serious note, I wish Evergreen was able to have higher admission standards. The lack of basic skills of others in my core program my frosh year amazed me. Critical reasoning abilities were lower than I thought appropriate for college in many of my peers throughout my years at Evergreen.

It's not as understanding in some issues (people wise)

I thought it would be more diverse age and race wise, then it actually is. I think the information given by Evergreen is less accurate because it includes the Tacoma campus, yet we barely ever are involved with the Tacoma campus. I also thought that the faculty would be less hierarchal then they actually have been.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I expected a much more health conscious community. Of all the colleges and universities I've visited, Evergreen seems to care the least for the health of its students. The CRC is depressing, out of date, and should have longer hours (very disappointing). The bookstore is allowed to sell cigarettes, there are smoking tents right next to the CRC and the main entrance on campus, and the food services are a joke.

I didn't expect to be surrounded by mostly privileged kids 10 years my junior. It was touted as a "diverse" school. I gotta tell you guys that this school is NOT diverse when coming from an inner city Community College like I did. I hear the Tacoma campus lives up to the claim of being diverse though so that's good!

Yes, I actually was very surprised with everything when I came to evergreen. There was very little diversity in student body, i didn't understand how class worked and couldn't get the ones I wanted, usually, and I had no idea how to function without grades.

Intolerance for rednecks and soldiers

Thought there would be more student run services... Thought it would be more diverse... Nearly always thought classes would be different than they turned out.

I thought there would be more acceptance of all types, I feel like because I'm white and I've female people assume I haven't experienced any social injustice or survived a traumatic event. I was also surprised by the amount of rigid political-correctness; I know it's important to acknowledge cultural differences and respect that, but when did that translate into everyone turning into the "sensitivity police"? I think there's a lot of tension and people are always looking for the "oppressors", in some ways this has made me make a point of being politically incorrect, we take ourselves too seriously, and you can't accomplish much in life if you can't laugh. Academically, Evergreen is everything I've ever wanted; the programs I've taken have all been important in some way, even the ones that weren't what I expected, I've learned that no matter what situation I'm in (academically), I can make the best of it and always come out having learned something conducive.

I thought there would be more narrative film making courses offered, or at least that it would be available; instead, I have found that it is purposely avoided. I am quite disappointed in this. I thought that downtown Olympia was closer, and more integrated into the campus community. I thought there would be more black people, or at least more people of color in general. I dislike how white the campus is.

I don't know the mandatory meal plan (for freshman) would be mostly wasted money I lost meals or declining balance at the end of each quarter.

The level of political and societal tension is much higher than I thought it would be, especially after the Feb. 14th incident.

When I lived on campus during Fall Quarter 2007 I thought I'd be living with people of roughly my own age and ended up with a roommate more than twice my age- I was not at all comfortable living with her-One of the main reasons I moved off-campus.

everyone is all talk and no game. Just a bunch of bullshitters

Not very connected to the real world...living on campus, I feel like I live in this weird forest-bubble of academia.

I really like the classrooms and I didn't think the students would be like they are but I survived.

Violence is endorsed a lot more than I expected and slight racism and classism towards upper-class, white, and male. Thought it would be more effectively interdisciplinary/more ride share.

Social life is so boring, but the school itself is amazing.

I thought there would be more acceptance for diversity and ideas. I thought my teacher would be less flakey and ridiculous.

Bad: I was surprised by the amount of militantism on campus, and the hostility towards other viewpoints. Good: The relationships I've had with faculty has been really encouraging and helpful, and much more responsive than I thought it would be.

I thought there would be more people committed to learning and less slackers. I didn't think there would be quite so much drug use.

I expected the social atmosphere to be a little more accepting. People talk a lot about how accepting they are, but really it's only if you agree with them.

I have had a very bad/ racial encounter with an instructor. I have had gender issues with women who hate men. I have also had a couple instructors who were insensitive to the need of my self and other students

as far as diversity, and multi-culturalism goes, i feel like the evergreen community has a set way of looking at issues of race, gender, etc. that if you don't 100% follow it your labeled as a racist, or sexist or whatever. I've almost constantly felt shame for being white, and a man since getting into class in the fall. i've been made to feel that no matter what i do to try to help people, or even to reverse racism, i'm white and i'm still the cause of all the problems associated with racism and i benefit from it, so it'd be totally justified for a black person to just kill me, similarly i feel guilty for being attracted to women, like i'm just a sex hungry pig, for even wanting sex, even if it's in a caring monogamous relationship. Evergreen accepts too much radicalism without at least saying, oh yeah your not necessarily a worthless person just because your white and a man.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

There is way more room to slack at this school than I thought possible. The only reason evaluations are better than grades is if you are a slacker and don't do your work. I thought there would be a lot of cool unique people but I realize half the people on campus are ignorant.

I had this impression that it was a much more open/liberal type college. With this I mean welcoming people from all different backgrounds and having all this richness collaborating together. From what I have seen for the most part however there is a lot of clashing and segregation amongst the different populations. There is a lot of either 'for' or 'against' with nothing in between. We should be more welcoming and accepting to this richness and stand together.

people aren't very friendly when you see them around campus

There is a lack of diversity in "race". There is also a sense of not belonging if you don't think the way that others do. There is a definite clique" sense on campus.

didn't realize how much science they had here, didn't realize how popular it was to out of state students. Fewer cute freshmen girls than had hoped

I have found evergreen to be a very close minded school. If you are not doing things the evergreen "way" then you do not belong. If you do not belong to some counter culture group then you do not belong. If you believe in a christian religion, capitalism, or anything that is against the "evergreen" point of view then you do not belong. For a school advertising "diversity" this is the last place to find it.

In choosing evergreen i had been hoping that i would find a school that truly transcended the clique's and rivalries apparent in every other school i've attended since i began gradeschool. I admit that this was a lofty hope, however the promise of a tolerant, diverse community on campus raised my hopes. Unfortunately, what i have discovered at evergreen is that while the uniforms are different, the people seem to be just as intolerant and immature as those i have observed at other institutions. Gangs of people in hippie costumes are just as judgmental as jocks, druggies replace preps, but the actions are no different. That said, i cannot really offer any suggestions, young people will be naive and idealistic when presented many of the political and economic ideas that are present at evergreen. And human nature is human nature, so i'm not especially surprised that kids are still being kids. However, evergreen literature did promise a different experience, and academically at least, it was correct.

Many freshman living in the dorms do not recycle this was very surprising.

I thought the diversity and strong feelings this community is known for would be a good thing. It turns out more often than not that now I'm subject to discrimination... because I'm a slender middle class white male who eats meat. I wish the maturity level of true minorities here was greater. Little do they know I'm already on their side, and they're often only making enemies with the way awareness and acceptance is socially enforced. Of course, "they" cannot include everyone. The cumulative mindset at Evergreen enables a situation of inverted power many people are not used to so they take advantage of it. It's very sad and commonly counter-productive. Nevertheless, it is a learning process, and that's what we're here for so I remain tolerant and understanding whenever possible. We're all in this together!

I really like the access to the woods and to the beach. That's a lot better than what I had thought. Socially it's been more difficult to make friends than I had thought, but I did come in at a weird time.

I was surprised to see so little cultural diversity. I come from South Seattle where there is a lot of cultural diversity, it doesn't feel like any one race in the majority. I would say 99% of Evergreen students are white.

when i first came here, and was looking into evergreen, i was told that the diversity on this campus was greater than i found it to actually be.

The cops are a large overbearing offensive presence on campus who act not out of compassion or reason but out of fear and an obvious power-trip.

They're having guns is absurd. Also, food options are awful and corporate power is everywhere. Evergreen administration is a farce.

I've found that the curriculum is arranged in a manner that I can achieve outrageous goals when seen in the light of my skimp educational background. I originally thought that I would be quite limited in my area of study but it seems that the programs are generated in such a way that I am able to astonish myself on a somewhat regular basis. I originally thought that the social environment would be easy for me to interface with--it is not.

The amount of diversity on campus. The statistics on the website are a lot higher for Olympia campus than actually present for the Olympia campus. Or at least being honest about the statistic on campus would be nice. the lack of involvement with many students has been very disappointing.

I thought it would be MORE social.

i didn't realize that it was so eccentric. I also expected (upon being introduced to the evolving way of thinking and learning here) that there would be a more diverse campus.

It doesn't feel like there is a connected community-nevertheless I love the education that I am getting.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I've found it to be MORE politically correct than I expected. While I understand why this is the case, I have experienced many cases where individuals are overly-aggressive or defensive in p.c. terms are not used. In these cases, I feel that the discussion being held was limited due to such responses. (When trying to discuss Shakespeare, I believe that we should be able to discuss other aspects of the text than the "domineering role of male characters" and so on.) While issues of race, sex, etc, are hugely important, I believe that we should be able to work with and around them, rather than having them overshadow all other academic discourse on a text.

I experienced more homophobia / heterosexism than I expected.

Intolerance of others' opinions and views, extreme blind anarchism and "anti" news... the social situation in general and race relations are different (overzealous tokenism and eggshell-walking of Day of absence/Presence). The real world applications and community connection were good surprise yea I was never told that I would have roommates on campus. I would at least be expected to be paired up with people more my age in the dorms. Kids do discriminate against older adults. The governing of the campus dorms is terrible the staff don't care if there is discrimination. The rules set forth by the RA's are not adhered and often expressed that they are doing that just for the free rent and food and could care less what goes on in dorms.

The scent free rule. It makes no sense that I can't wear perfume, yet general hygiene is no issue. Often on the bus ride to school the stench from all the people who haven't showered makes me want to puke. I'm fine with not wearing perfume, in fact, I support the idea of a scent-free campus. But if I can't smell good because it bothers some people, then there should also be a rule about smelling bad, because that is offensive to me. Also, there is very very little "diversity" on at Evergreen. In so many ways that I don't have time to list them here. Finally, I thought people at Evergreen would be friendly and accepting, but in my two years here I have encountered far more alienation and people putting on airs than what I expected.

I thought I'd be really involved in student and community organizations. Well, I ended up focusing more on staying afloat, both academically and financially. Realistically, I don't have much time or energy to be a part of the communities that I want to. This has been a big bummer for me. I feel a lot of pressure to make the most of my education (without accumulating too much debt), cuz after this I will be thrust out into the "real world" again, and I don't want to get stuck washing dishes or babysitting 40+ hours a week again. It is unfortunate that this is the case, because I think that a lot of learning happens through volunteering or working with different community organizations. I will eventually use Evergreen to do internships or contracts so that I can fulfill this desire of mine, however, I would mostly like to utilize the school for its learning opportunities within the classroom setting. I have also learned, through Evergreen, that it is up to me to create my world. If something isn't working for me, I need to draw up a plan to fix it, using the resources I have. I like the fact that, at Evergreen, nobody does it for you... If you ask for help, you can get it, but you need to articulate what you need and how the faculty or administration can help you. This is a valuable skill to have.

I wasn't expecting the radically liberal students to be as aggressive as they are. It's very off-putting. I thought there would be more course choices each quarter.

yes but that question is very hard to pin point. I thought there would be more activity and better weather

times are changing and I feel that the new students coming to Evergreen are making a change in a bad way. ( mainly the Anarchy crap )

I did not expect Evergreen to be a smoking campus. I love the school, in all other aspects, but I am very bothered by the prevalence of smoking outside of designated areas. I would fully support a ticket system for smoking outside designated areas, and would be happy to provide any extra funding necessary. Smoking anywhere you want is not an expression of freedom, it is a known cause of cancer that I feel I am unable to avoid because the rules are not properly enforced.

I thought there would be more hippies or diverse cultures.

I find that the bureaucratic system is really lacking- they make a lot of mistakes and are generally not very supportive of students. Also the housing and food services don't encourage a healthy independent life style.

There was less personal freedom than I expected, and by this I refer to the rules of living in housing and the evergreen police procedures.

I was disappointed and surprised to find an overly idealistic, loud and foolish group of students dominating a majority of the public discussions.

The community is much less "open" than I would have expected, considering the type of learning here. The social atmosphere seems very 'clique-ish', and unfriendly towards "outsiders" (I'm from the east coast).

Not as many "hippies" as there are "weirdos".

I really kept my ideas about Evergreen open before I got here and attended school. I am very disappointed with the actual low efforts of sustainability and environmental thinking and ways of doing things on campus. I find it very poor and lower than some schools I've attended. Evergreen can do far better than it is.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

*Includes issues pertaining to housing, food service, life outside of the classroom, diversity issues, tolerance and acceptance*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I guess I expected a much more compassionate staff overall. My neighbors were always being harassed by the R.A's and going through her stuff, there was a constant war between students and police which had an overall hostile environment. The students and staff alike were always angry and their actions reflected that anger. I was impressed with the Grievance system however but I believe it only addressed the small problems which just fell into miscellaneous details in the big picture of what problems there were on campus. I found it was difficult to trust students or police in any matter of conflict as neither seemed to wholly understand any of the situations they were involved in. Overall, I would say there was an ongoing power struggle which in my mind seemed utterly childish on both ends.

## Student Support Services

*Includes all support offices such as advising, financial aid, police services, health center, counseling, tutoring, writing center*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

i had no idea how much i would grow as a student through seminars, field trips, readings/films and so much more! it was a struggle, and i hope to use the support services more next year to help me reach my goals and dreams. i am now working with first people's advising and so happy - i should have checked in sooner! thank you for being such an amazing place of learning and growing!

I really like the level of services available, from the computer center to QUASAR to the health center!

### MIXED AND NEUTRAL COMMENTS (N=1)

I guess I expected a much more compassionate staff overall. My neighbors were always being harassed by the R.A's and going through her stuff, there was a constant war between students and police which had an overall hostile environment. The students and staff alike were always angry and their actions reflected that anger. I was impressed with the Grievance system however but I believe it only addressed the small problems which just fell into miscellaneous details in the big picture of what problems there were on campus. I found it was difficult to trust students or police in any matter of conflict as neither seemed to wholly understand any of the situations they were involved in. Overall, I would say there was an ongoing power struggle which in my mind seemed utterly childish on both ends.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=16)

Bad: 1. a lot of angry or unsocial young people 2. it's a lot more provincial than I thought; Evergreen focuses too much on drawing students from the local area (Olympia, Thurston, Lewis) when they could have a much broader appeal, in other Western Wash. counties and throughout the State. 3. There is no way to get here other than driving [approximately 45 miles from another county]. I would love a bus or train with easy connection to the college. 4. Evening and Weekend classes that are offered on two weekdays for two hours are not user-friendly. One night a week for a more extended time works much better for commuters and the employed. 5. Evergreen's Financial Aid Office needs to develop a statement that a lay person can read, not just an accountant. It is VERY difficult to interpret.

After talking with advisor's and looking on line it looked like the ability to study sustainable design and ecobuilding would be easy and very available. This is not the case, i have rung the "sustainable design/building" resources dry and am very unhappy with what I found and got back. I was told by a faculty member that coming to Evergreen for such a major was not smart, he is one of the few involved in this area of study here at school, which is almost non-existent. The website and advisor's were misleading.

Too much of a police state here. The cops need to LAY OFF of us! I expected to have a party and not have the cops come every time!!! It's college! Come on!

Yes, all the departments that are outside of learning, i.e. parking services, library policies, and the media loan center I have found to be very much outside of the tradition of community that I expected to be a part of all of the college. In a word, they are very money hungry, and very draconian in the inflexibility of their policies. [...] Students are sacrificing to get an education, especially in a country that has such an awful track record of supporting education, so the burden falls directly on us to force our way through an uncaring system. [...] To make learning just another avenue for economic exploitation and capitalistic greed. Policy makers and fat cat department workers, rise above this humiliation of students, and connect, empower and affirm each student with policies that are communicative, compassionate, and remind students that they are part of one of the leading educational institutions in the United States and it's courageous learning tradition. Don't just be like every other college, transcend them, set a new vision and example. [...] I believe in you, and hope for the best in the future.

## Student Support Services

*Includes all support offices such as advising, financial aid, police services, health center, counseling, tutoring, writing center*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I expected a much more health conscious community. Of all the colleges and universities I've visited, Evergreen seems to care the least for the health of its students. The CRC is depressing, out of date, and should have longer hours (very disappointing). The bookstore is allowed to sell cigarettes, there are smoking tents right next to the CRC and the main entrance on campus, and the food services are a joke.

I found that I could rely a bit less on program descriptions than on what the faculty of the program specialize in, to anticipate what would be covered in the program. A lot of the time you learn the faculty's expertise more than what is discussed in program descriptions. I also wish the accessibility of Media Services was better advertised. It's hard to feel like you have access unless you're in Media program/contract...

The only is that I expected more career opportunities and opportunities for financial assistance. Buying anything on campus is very expensive!

The cops are a large overbearing offensive presence on campus who act not out of compassion or reason but out of fear and an obvious power-trip. They're having guns is absurd. Also, food options are awful and corporate power is everywhere. Evergreen administration is a farce.

There's no help getting finding jobs after graduation and the theater programs are terrible

I was and continue to be confused and disappointed at how early the library closes. Many colleges keep their library open long past midnight, I can't see any real reason for ours not doing the same.

The classes are structured so it's hard to get/ maintain a job. Teachers are inconsiderate when dealing with students who work. Financial Aid has been a huge problem for me every year, this year I didn't receive my aid until spring quarter. Being an out of state student with no help from my family has been a huge problem for me, out of state tuition went up but the aid didn't rise adequately. This became especially hard when I was unable to get another job due to class structure.

The opening for registration is difficult on a time schedule basis. Each quarter, I am assigned a specific date to which I may enroll in classes. This puts me at an unfair advantage to others who are scheduled before me. It also is quite ironic because I am VA funded and the college is guaranteed my financial obligations. Why am I made to wait and loose out on possible enrollments to the classes I which to attend? This consistently leads me to the waitlist process. With full time employment, I cannot afford to go on certain nights, so, sometimes the desired class itself is a matter of timing, not preference. The waitlist pain creates havoc on my ability to attend some quarters.

I find that the bureaucratic system is really lacking- they make a lot of mistakes and are generally not very supportive of students. Also the housing and food services don't encourage a healthy independent life style.

There was less personal freedom than I expected, and by this I refer to the rules of living in housing and the evergreen police procedures.

the library has fewer resources than I expected. I'm incredibly impressed by the amount of alternative opportunities (independent study, study abroad, et c.). I feel like I could make any crazy idea a reality with a little initiative.

## Relationship with faculty

### *All comments that mentioned faculty in general or outside of the classroom*

#### **POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=11)**

[One of my relatives] received [a] Master's degree here before I began attending so I knew some of what to expect. I have by and large been delighted with the professors I know and interact with and have only been disappointed by how few classes are available in the Evening/Weekend program.

It's not really the "Hippie" college as most people believe. I'm [over 40] and most of my friends first comments are "How is it over there?" I think it's great, I have enjoyed my classmates, class structure, and teachers.

A very progressive and conscious student body has been a wonderful plus. The accessibility of faculty and the desire to see learning occur.

Faculty are caring, fun, and approachable.

I was surprised by how comfortable students are with each other and faculty.

Bad: I was surprised by the amount of militantism on campus, and the hostility towards other viewpoints. Good: The relationships I've had with faculty has been really encouraging and helpful, and much more responsive than I thought it would be.

I really like that most of the Evening and Weekend Studies faculty have other fulltime jobs. The classes that I have taken from those individuals have been geared toward folks that who work 40+ hours a week and are older than 30. I am 50+ so I don't feel like a lot of the questions on this survey pertained to my reasons for attending Evergreen. What surprised me was that fulltime students that live on campus are attending the evening and weekend classes even though it is possible for them to attend during the day.

There is a disheartening rift between administration and faculty/students. Faculty and students live up to my expectations. They are generally open-minded, well-read, and well-rounded. I find the learning community to be very rewarding, and I appreciate the community dynamics. However, the administration disappoints me. It is very disorganized and sometimes makes life harder for the students by communicating poorly and making mistakes with paperwork. In addition, administration does not seem to be on the same page as the rest of the school. It makes choices that run counter to what the students and faculty desire and does not always consult them properly. I feel like the administration is trying to make Evergreen more marketable by cleaning up its image and making it less radical, but this runs counter to the philosophy on which the school was founded. Stop trying to make us normal!

The faculty have been really great and I think this is because the small class sizes give them more options for teaching ie workshops, group work, etc

I really like the way the faculty (mostly) treats as peers or as someone who has made a deliberate effort to obtain an education. Different than many universities who are the EXPERT, thus making you less of one.

I was surprised at the amount of Non-Traditional and Returning students on campus. As a returning student it was nice to be accepted into the Evergreen community by my faculty, staff, and other students. The worst part about returning to school was fearing that I would stand out, and the best part was discovering that I could stand out.

#### **MIXED OR NEUTRAL COMMENTS (N=1)**

I didn't think I would connect with as many people as I have. I feel I have become more social, a lot of people including faculty are very excepting people. I wasn't too fond of road trips or field trips taken by some programs, I try to avoid certain ones like that. Getting use to the educational system was a little difficult but once I did I found it easier to learn and found myself really self driven about my school work. I am an athlete at Evergreen and would like to see more support mainly from the school. I feel that most teachers or faculty don't care about a lot of the sports. I feel like some the athletics are under-funded and that the school boards don't support their athletics as much as they should. I think Evergreen should be proud they have good athletes at the school and should show more support.

## Relationship with faculty

### *All comments that mentioned faculty in general or outside of the classroom*

#### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=7)

I thought it would be more diverse age and race wise, then it actually is. I think the information given by Evergreen is less accurate because it includes the Tacoma campus, yet we barely ever are involved with the Tacoma campus. I also thought that the faculty would be less hierarchal then they actually have been.

I thought there would be more acceptance for diversity and ideas. I thought my teacher would be less flakey and ridiculous.

I have had a very bad/ racial encounter with a instructor. I have had gender issues with women who hate men. I have also had a couple instructors who were insensitive to the need of my self and other students

I did not expect to find that a professor such as [faculty member] would make racial comments against black men.

Faculty. I thought that there would be more student-teacher time, but sometimes they don't even remember names of students, the classes are so full. Faculty support has been the problem, them having the time to help individually. Also, waitlisting problems, too many students, not enough classes.

The classes are structured so it's hard to get/ maintain a job. Teachers are inconsiderate when dealing with students who work. Financial Aid has been a huge problem for me every year, this year I didn't receive my aid until spring quarter. Being an out of state student with no help from my family has been a huge problem for me, out of state tuition went up but the aid didn't rise adequately. This became especially hard when I was unable to get another job due to class structure.

Many of the classes I was interested in taking have a year to two years of prerequisite classes. As a transfer student I was deeply disappointed and angry that Evergreen advertises itself as a school where students can take any class and learn what they feel they need to learn. If classes do not have required prerequisite classes I find that they usually require a faculty signature. Evergreen claims that it is a school that is open to every student but is actually run on favoritism. The inner politics of this school has interfered with my education multiple times. I feel that my requests and questions at Evergreen have been approached by the faculty with suspicion and outrage.



## Evergreen in General

*All comments that mentioned Evergreen without specifically mentioning faculty, staff, admin., offices, etc.*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=14)

It changed my life for the better more than I ever expected

I didn't expect so much latent racism. I didn't expect to have to teach privileged kids about privilege. I expected more support from faculty in seminar. I expected more community. I had to look for it. I expected to love Evergreen and I do!

It has been a very good experience for me as far as school goes. It was perfect for what I needed and the time I needed it. I would not change what I accomplished or my experience here at TESC at all.

Paradoxical. There are so many contradictories to preconceptions I make in my head about Evergreen. I think it's a great thing because there is always something new to learn if I'm willing to put myself into different situations. Exploring the ins and outs of Evergreen has proved to me that this school truly cannot be marginalized and that it is in a constant state of change. It's an ongoing process/experience.

Social life is so boring, but the school itself is amazing.

Good. I can learn various things.

College is a lot more weird and absurd than I thought possible, I'm not disappointed.

I love the freedom with responsibility!

Everything was so different. I was expecting a "normal" school, those that you see on movies, tv, etc. But i loved my experience here at Evergreen, everything about it was unique and special for me.

There are many more brilliantly intelligent people that go here.

There is an overwhelming amount of possibilities that present themselves for me. This is both good and bad. The infinite possibilities creates a large space for choice and opportunities to grow and mature.

EVERYTHING! Mostly good.

Yes, but it's good.

The earnestness with Evergreen seeks to achieve its mission

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=5)

A lot about Evergreen seemed very interesting on paper, and seemed "different." Although, that's just paper, this place is filled with as much BS as most.

I thought it was a liberal school but it is not.

Sometimes the whole experience seems very disorganized.

worried about the perception that Evergreen degree is not taken seriously in this area

Lack of focus on sustainability and huge emphasis on raising money for college. Ex. recruiting freshman sports, scholarships remodeling

## Relationship with Administration or Staff

### *All comments that mentioned Evergreen staff or administration*

#### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=1)

I was surprised at the amount of Non-Traditional and Returning students on campus. As a returning student it was nice to be accepted into the Evergreen community by my faculty, staff, and other students. The worst part about returning to school was fearing that I would stand out, and the best part was discovering that I could stand out.

#### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=9)

When I applied to TESC, I noticed the acceptance rates were higher than most schools. From my experiences this year, they still are. I wish the administration would have lowered tuition rates and that admissions would be much more selective. I think there are too many negative influences in the classroom as well as in Housing. [In housing] I got to see a lot of behavior that is very unhealthy for a learning environment. I think this could be effectively eliminated if the entrance essay was no longer optional and the SAT & ACT requirements were higher. Initially I thought the lower standards would bring students with hidden talents and unmeasurable potential. My experience has confirmed almost the opposite. I have neighbors who deal drugs (not the harmless kind either) and will someday have diplomas from The Evergreen State College. When I graduate in June and look back at this school later in life, I want to be proud of having this diploma, not ashamed.

President needs social involvement with students and use his role as leader to find co-intelligent solutions to social groups on campus - DID NOT SEE THAT Involvement by him with SDS - (praise that they have found possible solutions!!)

I wasn't expecting there to be so many illogical anarchists. How a school can ever make me feel so conservative is beyond me. But on a more serious note, I wish Evergreen was able to have higher admission standards. The lack of basic skills of others in my core program my frosh year amazed me. Critical reasoning abilities were lower than I thought appropriate for college in many of my peers throughout my years at Evergreen.

Though I think it is wonderful that Evergreen allows its students to run the programs it does hinder Evergreen as well. I have had extremely poor experiences with Housing in particular, but other programs because of the ineffectiveness of the staff. I do not believe my fellow students are capable of running these places without major help from individuals who are more qualified and experienced.

The cops are a large overbearing offensive presence on campus who act not out of compassion or reason but out of fear and an obvious power-trip. They're having guns is absurd. Also, food options are awful and corporate power is everywhere. Evergreen administration is a farce.

There is a disheartening rift between administration and faculty/students. Faculty and students live up to my expectations. They are generally open-minded, well-read, and well-rounded. I find the learning community to be very rewarding, and I appreciate the community dynamics. However, the administration disappoints me. It is very disorganized and sometimes makes life harder for the students by communicating poorly and making mistakes with paperwork. In addition, administration does not seem to be on the same page as the rest of the school. It makes choices that run counter to what the students and faculty desire and does not always consult them properly. I feel like the administration is trying to make Evergreen more marketable by cleaning up its image and making it less radical, but this runs counter to the philosophy on which the school was founded. Stop trying to make us normal!

I find that the bureaucratic system is really lacking- they make a lot of mistakes and are generally not very supportive of students. Also the housing and food services don't encourage a healthy independent life style.

I'm really surprised by the suppression of student voices i.e. SDS being shut down; and the recent "round up" court.

I guess I expected a much more compassionate staff overall. My neighbors were always being harassed by the R.A's and going through her stuff, there was a constant war between students and police which had an overall hostile environment. The students and staff alike were always angry and their actions reflected that anger. I was impressed with the Grievance system however but I believe it only addressed the small problems which just fell into miscellaneous details in the big picture of what problems there were on campus. I found it was difficult to trust students or police in any matter of conflict as neither seemed to wholly understand any of the situations they were involved in. Overall, I would say there was an ongoing power struggle which in my mind seemed utterly childish on both ends.

## Campus Surroundings

*Includes general surroundings, surrounding community*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

I really like the access to the woods and to the beach. That's a lot better than what I had thought. Socially it's been more difficult to make friends than I had thought, but I did come in at a weird time.

I love the smallness of the campus and the trees everywhere; the small class sizes, and the recycling program

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=5)

Bad: 1. a lot of angry or unsocial young people 2. it's a lot more provincial than I thought; Evergreen focuses too much on drawing students from the local area (Olympia, Thurston, Lewis) when they could have a much broader appeal, in other Western Wash. counties and throughout the State. 3. There is no way to get here other than driving [approximately 45 miles from another county]. I would love a bus or train with easy connection to the college. 4. Evening and Weekend classes that are offered on two weekdays for two hours are not user-friendly. One night a week for a more extended time works much better for commuters and the employed. 5. Evergreen's Financial Aid Office needs to develop a statement that a lay person can read, not just an accountant. It is VERY difficult to interpret.

the rain kills me. The availability and quality of facilities in my fields—[three Expressive Arts]-- are Outstanding. The student body is not as ethnically diverse as I thought it would be. This will sound mean, but there are a lot of people here who just aren't that smart. It saps my energy to be around people who don't share my intense desire to learn, or who lack basic skills in writing and logical reasoning. I'd like to be at a school that accepts less than 98% of its applicants.

I thought there would be more narrative film making courses offered, or at least that it would be available; instead, I have found that it is purposely avoided. I am quite disappointed in this. I thought that downtown Olympia was closer, and more integrated into the campus community. I thought there would be more black people, or at least more people of color in general. I dislike how white the campus is.

worried about the perception that Evergreen degree is not taken seriously in this area

yes but that question is very hard to pin point. I thought there would be more activity and better weather

## Facilities

*Comments pertaining to Evergreen buildings, equipment, operations, maintenance, upkeep*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

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I love the smallness of the campus and the trees everywhere; the small class sizes, and the recycling program

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

I expected a much more health conscious community. Of all the colleges and universities I've visited, Evergreen seems to care the least for the health of it's students. The CRC is depressing, out of date, and should have longer hours (very disappointing). The bookstore is allowed to sell cigarettes, there are smoking tents right next to the CRC and the main entrance on campus, and the food services are a joke.

I wasn't expecting the buildings to have such disgusting hand towel dispensers. The ones in the Lecture Hall that have the cloth towels that you have to pull down I find are a unsanitary sight - not that they aren't clean, I just do not appreciate them like I do the automatic hand dryers.

**Can't Code (N=1)**

I don't think that the rant I might produce could possibly fit into the allotted space.

**No, there was nothing really different (N=35)**

No (19)

Nope. (2)

Not really (3)

Not really, it's been a rally fabulous, soul growing experience.

no, just as I expected.

I didn't have any expectations, I was too excited to be coming to evergreen!

Not really. I grew up in Olympia.

I really had no expectations, and so far my experience has been a very positive one.

Not especially.

coming here is actually pretty much what I expected but saying that I didn't really have that many expectations, I just knew it would be different from home.

No, but I do wish that we had a supporting connection to a media school.

It was about what I expected.

No, I came to take the classes I've taken and will now graduate. Goal accomplished.

Nope. I knew much about Evergreen before attending