

The Evergreen State College
 Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2008
 Responses of Tacoma 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. All of the respondents indicated that interdisciplinary learning was important to them.

Is interdisciplinary learning important to you? Why or why not?
 (N=48, 0 skipped question)

Categories in which student responses fell	Yes N=48
Yes, general	14.6%
Helps synthesize information and ideas	22.9%
Learning from many perspectives	20.8%
Real world relevance	12.5%
Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding	12.5%
Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests	8.3%
Gives context to what I am learning	8.3%
Broad range of experiences/ good general education	6.3%
Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills	6.3%
Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives	6.3%
Lends diversity to a program	4.2%
Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus	2.1%
If properly implemented, though this is not always the case	2.1%
Develops interpersonal skills	2.1%
Stimulating, engaging	2.1%
Interdisciplinary learning is very interesting/ enjoyable	2.1%
Can't code response	2.1%

*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=7)

Yes. (3)

Very important to me.

Yes is is very important to me. Transferring from a traditional four year school has allowed me to experience the two and I have fallen in love with Evergreen's learning environment.

Yes, at my level

Yes, I enjoy learning in an interdisciplinary environment.

Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (N=11)

yes, b/c it reflects the interconnected nature of reality

It is an important part of my journey as I get the opportunity to see how all of the disciplines may connect and will lead you towards your long term goal.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning is important because as a prospective law student it is good to know how various disciplines can relate to one another.

Yes. I would be bored without being able to see the connectedness and learn on many different levels.

Yes. The world is more visably interconnected. We understand the benefit of diversity of thought and how that brings strength to a project of any type. I am confident that I can be useful to any team because of my ability to draw connections from a variety of diciplines.

yes becuase it shows how we all connect

Yes- I have difficulty forming connections-this helps push me to do so.

Interdisciplinary learning comprehensively ties learning together so that you come to understand how subject matter can be used in a realistic manner. It's pretty cool!

Yes! You learn how everything is connected. You find uses for what you are learning in class.

Yes, I feel my education has been full of things which connect me to everything

Yes because I am able to learn from different areas that at first may not seem to be related, yet each area fits into a category and it's part of the bigger picture.

Learning from many perspectives (N=10)

Yes, I believe that it is important (especially in my field) to examine social problems and solutions from various

Yes, to get different perspectives on a topic.

yes because you received both perspectives of a subject

Yes but only when it truly exists. I feel that one perspective narrows your understanding of a topic or issue and learning to switch your lenses to look at certain topics and issues will give you a broader perspective and more insight into the problem and possible solutions.

Yes, I'm especially interested in interdisciplinary literature, because in order to understand most literature, you must be aware of all the issues that go into said literature, be they historical, social, psychological, etc.

yes because it gives you a chance to view things in a different way even if you wouldn't have taken a class on a certain topic.

Yes, because it allows the student to develop understanding through a diverse outlook.

Yes, in my previous school the teacher focused on one main objective. At evergreen, looking at different perspectives is I feel broadening my awareness.

Learning from many perspectives (N=cont'd)

Yes because it gives two different aspects to the same subject which brodens the subject matter. All of this helps you to think outside of the box.

Yes, because I appreciate the knowledge and experience coming from two different perspectives.

Real world relevance (N=6)

yes, b/c it reflects the interconnected nature of reality

Interdisciplinary learning comprehensively ties learning together so that you come to understand how subject matter can be used in a realistic manner. It's pretty cool!

Yes! You learn how everything is connected. You find uses for what you are learning in class.

Yes, you see how many different studies fit together in the real world.

Yes! Interdisciplinary learning reflects the real world around me socially and in the work place.

Yes - it offers real world experience and ability to put into practice our learning that will be inherent to our lives beyond Evergreen

Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (N=6)

Yes, because it allows the student to develop understanding through a diverse outlook.

yes, I feel the dynamic created with interdisciplinary studies to be very potent as compared with single subject learning

Yes, it has really helped me to gain knowledge and develop an interest in subjects outside of my focus area.

Yes, this pedagogy is better for me to learn and enjoy.

Yes, because it has enhanced my learning experience.

It helps me to stay focused

Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests (N=4)

Yes, in my previous school the teacher focused on one main objective. At evergreen, looking at different perspectives is I feel broadening my awareness.

Yes, it has really helped me to gain knowledge and develop an interest in subjects outside of my focus area.

Yes- it helped me explore lots of different areas of study prior to choosing one to pursue.

Yes, because it enabled me to learn not only about my area of interest but others as well.

Gives Context to What I am Learning (N=4)

Interdisciplinary learning comprehensively ties learning together so that you come to understand how subject matter can be used in a realistic manner. It's pretty cool!

Yes! You learn how everything is connected. You find uses for what you are learning in class.

Yes, I feel my education has been full of things which connect me to everything

Yes, you see how many different studies fit together in the real world.

Broad range of experiences/ good general education (N=3)

Yes because it gives two different aspects to the same subject which broadens the subject matter. All of this helps you to think outside of the box.

Yes, I believe it creates an environment that provides the broadest educational opportunity.

It is important, because I appreciate and value the concept of being a good generalist.

Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills (N=3)

Yes but only when it truly exists. I feel that one perspective narrows your understanding of a topic or issue and learning to switch your lenses to look at certain topics and issues will give you a broader perspective and more insight into the problem and possible solutions.

Yes because it gives two different aspects to the same subject which broadens the subject matter. All of this helps you to think outside of the box.

Yes - it gives me the opportunity to think outside the box and to learn in that type of environment.

Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives (N=3)

Yes, it's important it has given me the opportunity to experience a cohesive style of learning. I really enjoyed the team building exercises and the openness of communication between the students.

Yes, because in my field systemic collaboration is very important to produce effective changes.

I like it because it fits my life style and personality. I feel I learned more from peoples experiences and keeping sociable has helped with networking.

Lends diversity to a program (N=2)

Yes. The world is more visibly interconnected. We understand the benefit of diversity of thought and how that brings strength to a project of any type. I am confident that I can be useful to any team because of my ability to draw connections from a variety of disciplines.

Yes, because it allows the student to develop understanding through a diverse outlook.

Develops interpersonal skills (N=1)

I like it because it fits my life style and personality. I feel I learned more from peoples experiences and keeping sociable has helped with networking.

If properly implemented, though this is not always the case (N=1)

I firmly believe interdisciplinary learning is essential, however, I believe the work and course-load being offered by the Tacoma Program are ridiculously easy and uninformative. There are junior high and high school students attending our program and laughing. There is more than enough reading and nothing to connect it to the idea of the program (i.e. Lyceum). [There are] only two instructors that regularly return corrected work with comments that apply to material and not simply their own random personal opinions/preferences.

Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus (N=1)

Yes, it is because its focus is specific and allows for more specialized services.

Stimulating, engaging (N=1)

It helps me to stay focused

Interdisciplinary learning is very interesting/ enjoyable (N=1)

Yes. The interdisciplinary learning is new to me, but interesting.

Can't code response (N=1)

Yes. I feel like instead of having two teachers to teach one class that you should let each teacher teach their own class.