

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

### Expectations

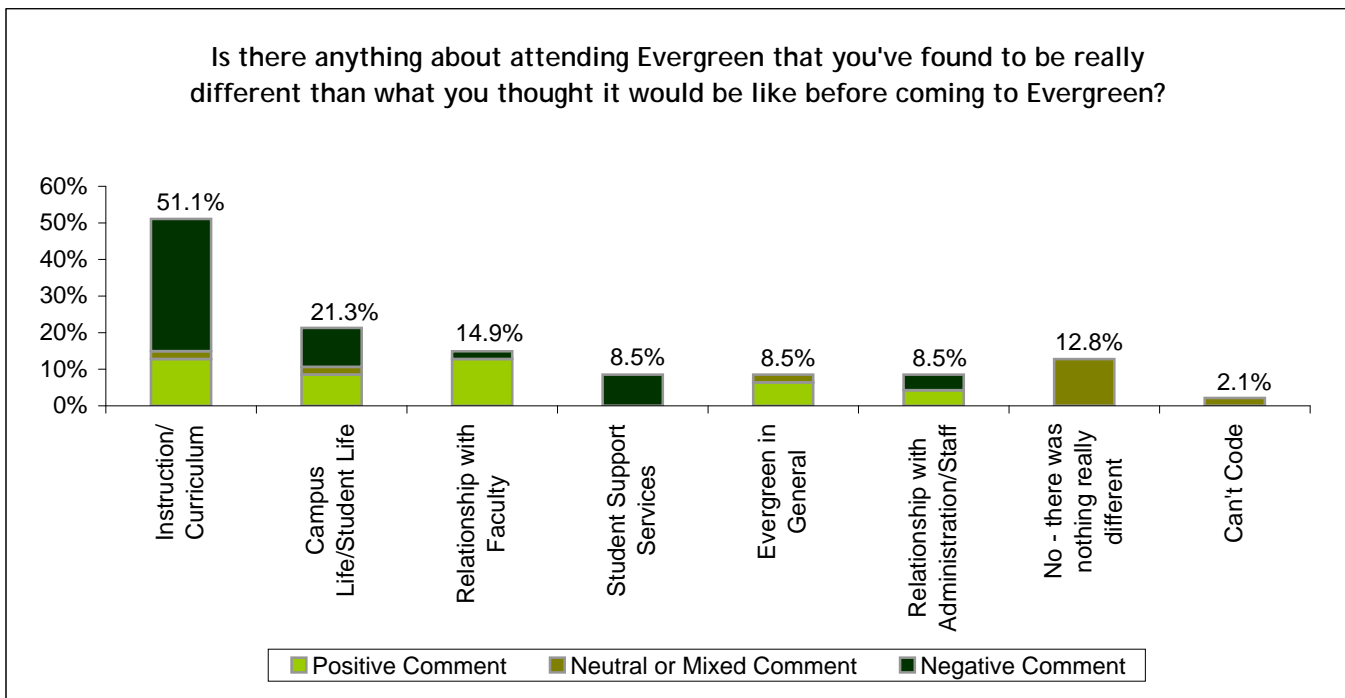
Students were asked the open-ended question "Is there anything about attending Evergreen that you've found to be really different than what you thought it would be like before coming to Evergreen? (Good or bad)."

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=47, 15 skipped the question)

	Positive	Mixed/Neutral	Negative	Total
Instruction/ Curriculum	12.8%	2.1%	36.2%	51.1%
Campus Life/Student Life	8.5%	2.1%	10.6%	21.3%
Relationship with Faculty	12.8%	-	2.1%	14.9%
Student Support Services	-	-	8.5%	8.5%
Evergreen in General	6.4%	2.1%	-	8.5%
Relationship with Administration/Staff	4.3%	-	4.3%	8.5%
No - there was nothing really different	-	12.8%	-	12.8%
Can't Code	-	2.1%	-	2.1%



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=6)

Yes. I love the diversity, respect and the acceptance that is displayed and the up front expectations as a student.

I do not feel inferior to my professors and I can share my knowledge with others since we are working together versus being in competition with my peers.

I am pleased with the instructors, the school and the students. I am working with at Evergreen. I am so pleased I was able to walk through the lovely doors of TESC.

I had no idea that collaborative, interdisciplinary learning could be so fulfilling.

The learning style is different but that is one of the things that attracted me to the college. I was surprised by how approachable staff and faculty are.

Group collaboration, small group discussions, the relaxed learning atmosphere, no competition for grades-all good

MIXED AND NEUTRAL COMMENTS (N=1)

It would be nice to visit another seminar from time to time to mingle amongst other students, faculty, and ideas.

NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=17)

I thought Evergreen would be far more progressive and open-minded and compassionate, but [there have been exceptions]. Also, [there is an absence of faculty with knowledge of the human services field]. I have wanted to go to Evergreen since I was fifteen and I am highly disappointed. Furthermore, I thought that students would be accountable for their work and instead I am finding that students can easily get a degree without participating in group projects and piggybacking off of others.

I thought I would learn more. I learned more in one quarter at [a Washington community college] than I did in two years at Evergreen.

Yes, I was under the impression that instructors were more strict.

I would like to see more workshops at the Tacoma Campus. The student body can use more access to scholarships and internship opportunities, preferably paid. I enjoy the faculty, they are approachable and eager to talk to the students. I would love more support from the Olympia Campus for the Tacoma program's spring fair. Advertising, food, flyers.

I found that there is a lack of diversity at the tacoma campus which I really had thought would be different. I am also concerned with the lack of choices on the tacoma campus and the narrow focus on race relations being the only direction the school seems to be going. I would like to see more psychology and social service classes. Computer and research classes also need to be addressed. I am also concerned with the lack of skill development on this campus. I wonder what this degree will really mean in the end with out any substantial changes to the Tacoma Evergreen campus/program.

not as high intellectual standards (I thought the student body would be smarter/more interested in school)

Academically mediocre in Tacoma.

I was not expecting the required seat time.

Lack of services in Tacoma limited study related classes at Tacoma information, such as the day financial aide personal were at our campus and lots of us did not know until next day-Lack of announcements.

I was a little confused on the application of credits. Although I understand the concept it would be beneficial to not give the entire responsibility to the professor to award full credit or half credit to a student. The student and staff should have more of a collaborative responsibility in the process. With exception that a student has completed assignments to the best of their ability and put forth effort to all work assigned to him or her.

I thought that there would be more choices in science based or psychology classes

I would love some physical science classes at the Tacoma campus. (i.e. Labs) I feel like we don't get the same offerings, or even a quiet place to study on campus. Every classroom is loud, even the comp. labs, and no-one (faculty/staff) knows of a quiet place to read or study besides sitting in your car.

I do not care for the team teaching. It takes away from adding more classes at the tacoma campus and usually does not allow for in depth teaching in either area. Lyceum and seminar is a waste of time. Offer classes needed. Tacoma campus.

*\*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*

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (cont'd)

I attend the Tacoma campus and was very disappointed it was very little like main campus. Very different focus. I chose to do SOS for my last quarter for this reason. The main campus resources were hard to use from Tacoma.

There are far too many students that, although have acquired 90 credits somewhere, are not ready for senior undergrad courses. Open enrollment with no academic placement testing slows the progress of the rest of the class. This is a "major" issue at the Tacoma campus and the fact that this is not being addressed is fostering resentment and division among the students.

I am not at all challenged by the courses offered at TESC. Much like [in my prior experience], most of these classes have been designed for the slowest person to excel--rather than pre-requisites or tutoring, these classes are continually held up to allow for questions that do not demonstrate a previous knowledge of subject matter, as should be evident in an upper division program. It is embarrassing

I thought that the Quarterly Evaluation would be well thought out and written. I thought that the caliber of students admitted would be better. I thought that some standard or measurement of quality of work would be apart of the evaluation process.

## Campus Life/ Student Life

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

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=4)

My overall experience has been wonderful and if it wasn't for me attending TESC. I don't think I would have continued on with my education. I love the faculty and staff and students at TESC and I'm so proud to be apart of the TESC family.

Yes. I love the diversity, respect and the acceptance that is displayed and the up front expectations as a student.

Love the diversity

I was told Evergreen was a school for hippies and wierd'os, that made me nervous. But I fit right in and met some wonderful people

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

I love diversity of the Tacoma campus. It lends to different experience. This is wonderful and alienating at the same time. Many assumptions are made about outside appearances. It should be understood that we all have individual experiences that make us unique.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=5)

I have experienced racism from certain African-American students on the Tacoma campus, and it is allowed to happen on a semi-regular basis. There is an undercurrent of hostility from some students and there is no real reason for it. Instead of focusing on how we are the same, the Tacoma campus seems to focus on the oppression of African-Americans (or other races) and that all white people are "privileged." While I know that there is a certain element of this that is true (the privilege part) and that whites have oppressed others for centuries, it is a constant struggle to be a student in that environment. I am not one of the oppressors, nor should I be treated as such. Obviously if I am at the Tacoma campus, I am committed to working in a diverse setting. Fellow students should not be considered the enemy unless they have done something to deserve that sort of label.

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Thought it would be people helping people, not that way

Evergreen Tacoma is advertised as being a diverse campus, but, in fact, I have found it to not be that way. It does represent the African-American experience, which is fabulous, but it is definitely not diverse. There are few, if any, other races represented on campus besides Caucasian and African-American. I have been on campus for two years and there has yet to be a discussion regarding Latino issue or Gay/Lesbian issues, which are VERY prevalent issues in this country currently. I feel that the campus is doing its students a huge disservice by not addressing such issues.

Yes. I thought THE Tacoma Program it will be more diverse. However I find it very ethnocentric( Afro-American)

## Relationship with faculty

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

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=6)

My overall experience has been wonderful and if it wasn't for me attending TESC. I don't think I would have continued on with my education. I love the faculty and staff and students at TESC and I'm so proud to be apart of the TESC family.

I would like to see more workshops at the Tacoma Campus. The student body can use more access to scholarships and internship opportunities, preferably paid. I enjoy the faculty, they are approachable and eager to talk to the students. I would love more support from the Olympia Campus for the Tacoma program's spring fair. Advertising, food, flyers.

I do not feel inferior to my professors and I can share my knowledge with others since we are working together versus being in competition with my peers. I am pleased with the instructors, the school and the students. I am working with at Evergreen. I am so pleased I was able to walk through the lovely doors of TESC.

I like teacher great experience

The learning style is different but that is one of the things that attracted me to the college. I was surprised by how approachable staff and faculty are.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=1)

Ignorance is the emptiness which wisdom grows, stupid you can't do much with. I don't think there is anyone stupid at evergreen but there seems to be an overwhelming emptiness. [Two faculty] have been very disrespectful to me and have made inaccurate and offensive assumptions about me due to my skin color. [Two faculty] are really good teachers. I can't speak for anyone else due to lack of experience.

## Student Support Services

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

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=4)

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Lack of services in Tacoma limited study related classes at Tacoma information, such as the day financial aide personal were at our campus and lots of us did not know until next day-Lack of announcements.

I felt that the new student orientation could have been ran better with current students there to answer our questions and to share how a typical day goes. I also felt the first week of class could have been more helpful with a buddie to show you around and answer any questions. I felt very lost and confused on the first week of school. Almost didn't think I would make it.

I attend the Tacoma campus and was very disappointed it was very little like main campus. Very different focus. I chose to do SOS for my last quarter for this reason. The main campus resources were hard to use from Tacoma.

## Evergreen in General

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

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=3)

The Tacoma campus is a rare gift that has far exceeded my expectations.

I don't have any bad experiences or comments of Evergreen College. Everybody make me feels welcome and I am glad to be a part of Evergreen College.

Much more exciting than I expected

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

When first attended evergreen, everything seemed to be really unclear, but after continuing its a little better.

## Relationship with Administration or Staff

*All comments that mentioned Evergreen staff or administration*

### POSITIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

My overall experience has been wonderful and if it wasn't for me attending TESC. I don't think I would have continued on with my education. I love the faculty and staff and students at TESC and I'm so proud to be apart of the TESC family.

The learning style is different but that is one of the things that attracted me to the college. I was surprised by how approachable staff and faculty are.

### NEGATIVE COMMENTS (N=2)

I thought Evergreen would be far more progressive and open-minded and compassionate, but [there have been exceptions]. Also, [there is an absence of faculty with knowledge of the human services field]. I have wanted to go to Evergreen since I was fifteen and I am highly disappointed. Furthermore, I thought that students would be accountable for their work and instead I am finding that students can easily get a degree without participating in group projects and piggybacking off of others.

[...] It's heartbreaking to me that I feel compelled to warn students of the harsh environment of the Tacoma Campus when they ask me for my recommendation to attend that campus.

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

Working full-time by day and school at night - it doesn't get any better than that!!!

### No, there was nothing really different (N=6)

No (3)

Not really.

No. [I have relatives who] are graduates of Evergreen. Therefore, I knew what to expect. They spoke very highly of the education that they received.

Not really, only because I was in the Bridge Program and because familiarized with Evergreen