

## Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2011

### Research Methodology

The Evergreen Student Experience Survey is administered biennially by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. This report describes the research methodology for the 2011 administration of the survey. More information about this and other survey administrations is available on the Institutional Research and Assessment website: [www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch](http://www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch).

The Evergreen Student Experience Survey is an integral part of Evergreen's assessment plan by incorporating questions that specifically address aspects of Evergreen's unique structure and learning environment. In addition, the survey results are a campus-wide resource for students, administrators, and faculty and include information about:

- Student satisfaction with elements of Evergreen's learning environment
- Student perception of Evergreen's contribution to their growth in various skill areas
- Student goals for the college experience
- Student level of confidence
- Student use of campus resources and participation in community activities
- Demographics not available through the BANNER administrative database

This survey serves as part of a larger longitudinal research effort. The Evergreen Student Experience Survey, the Evergreen New Student Survey, and the Alumni Survey were designed in parallel; the three surveys are administered biennially, and contain comparable questions to assess student attitudes, perceptions and experiences at college entry, after one year of study, and one year after graduation. The data from these three surveys are used individually and in concert for assessment and informed changes to Evergreen's academic environment, improvement of student services, and institutional planning.

### Sampling Method

The total sample of surveyed students consists of a random sample of Olympia degree-seeking undergraduate students, all students enrolled in off-site programs, and all completers of the Evergreen New Student Survey 2010.

A random sample of 1,200 students from the Evergreen Olympia degree-seeking undergraduate population was selected. This sample was stratified by class standing to be proportionally representative of all Olympia undergraduate class standing.

*Total number of students in Olympia undergraduate population by class standing, percent of population and total number of students in sample*

	Total in population (N)	Percent of Population	Total in Sample (N)	Percent of Sample
Freshmen	487	13%	154	13%
Sophomores	1109	29%	350	29%
Juniors	709	19%	224	19%
Seniors	1495	39%	472	39%
	3800*	100%	1200	100%

\* Post-baccalaureate students were excluded in this research.

Students enrolled spring quarter 2011 who completed the New Student Survey 2010 and were not selected in the random sample were also asked to participate in the survey. Therefore, all respondents

to the Evergreen New Student Survey 2010 who were enrolled spring 2011 were invited to participate in the Evergreen Student Experience Survey thereby enhancing the strength of future longitudinal analyses.

All students enrolled in the Tacoma, Grays Harbor, and Tribal: Reservation-based/Community-determined (Tribal) programs during spring quarter 2011 were also asked to participate in the survey. This was to increase the probability of having sufficient numbers of respondents to conduct program-specific analyses and assessment.

One-thousand nine-hundred eighty undergraduates were invited to participate in the Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2011. Seven hundred eighty additional students who were not part of the Olympia random sample were surveyed:

- All degree-seeking Tribal students (N=27)
- All Degree-seeking Tacoma students (N= 205)
- All Degree-seeking Grays Harbor students (N=44)
- Evergreen New Student Survey 2010 respondents not selected in the initial Olympia campus random sample enrolled as of 10th day (N=504).

### **Methods of Contacting Students**

Enrolled students were first contacted by e-mail to their assigned college e-mail address (evergreen.edu). The e-mails contained a brief introduction to the survey and a link to the web survey. Students who lacked valid e-mail addresses or for other reasons did not respond to the web survey were sent a copy of the survey by mail. Two reminder e-mails and a reminder letter were sent to those students who had not completed the survey.

### **Student Responses Rates and Methods of Response**

There were 522 responses to the Evergreen Student Experience Survey, representing 12.7% of the 4103 degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled spring quarter. Five hundred twenty-two of 1980 students responded, giving an overall response rate of 26.3%. The following chart shows separate response rates for the random sample, all enrolled students in the Tacoma, Tribal, and Grays Harbor programs, and the additional respondents to the Evergreen New Student Survey 2011.

#### *Response Rates by Sample Types*

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Number in Sample</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Students in Random Sample	303	1200	25.3%
Students enrolled in Tacoma Program	52	205	25.4%
Students enrolled in Grays Harbor Program	14	44	31.8%
Students enrolled in Tribal: Reservation-based/Community-determined Programs	6	27	22.2%
Additional Olympia students who responded to the Evergreen New Student Survey 2011 and were not selected in random sample	147	504	29.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>26.3%</b>

Of the total number of students responding, 402 responded via the web (77.0% of respondents), and 120 responded by mail (23.0% of respondents).

### **Student Response Reports**

Because of the unique learning environments of Evergreen's different locations, only a small number of data elements were analyzed using the institution-wide sample responses. Students' responses were analyzed by the type of student and location of study. Responses from the following non-mutually exclusive subgroups have been summarized and analyzed:

- Olympia campus students selected in the random sample (N=303)
- Students studying at the Tacoma campus (N=52)
- All first-time, first-year respondents who were new in Fall 2008 (N=109)
- Students who responded to both the Evergreen New Student Survey 2010 and Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2011 (N=248 first-time, first-years and transfer students)

To protect the identities of individual respondents, responses for Grays Harbor and Tribal programs were summarized in general but not analyzed further because of the low number of respondents. Tests for representativeness of respondents to the population of students are reported within the separate reports listed above.