

The Evergreen State College  
February 5, 1997

**TO:** President, Vice Presidents, Academic Deans, Accreditation Self-Study Team  
Mike Wark

**FROM:** Andrea Meld, Institutional Research and Planning (6676)

**RE:** 1996 Alumni Survey: Positive comments from alumni who graduated in 1995

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As part of the 1996 Alumni Survey, we asked alumni to rate several areas in which Evergreen had contributed to academic and personal growth. The results of these quantitative measures have been presented in previous reports. We were also interested in capturing the experiences of Evergreen alumni in their own words. Following the rating scales were open-ended questions asking about the areas in which they were most and least satisfied with their education at Evergreen. The attached document is a list of the *positive* comments contributed by alumni, sorted and placed in alphabetical order by topic.

Many of these comments are original, enlightening, and encouraging. The longest list of comments are those mentioning very positive interactions with Evergreen faculty. Writing effectively, critical thinking, working in groups, and seminars also received numerous positive remarks. Please feel free to quote or otherwise use the attached report in presentations or college-related materials.

**Written Comments from 1996 Alumni Survey**  
**“Areas of Greatest Satisfaction”**

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

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*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

### **College atmosphere and environment**

1. Campus.
2. The atmosphere
3. General atmosphere
4. The environment of the college.
5. Beautiful campus, good facilities.
6. The beauty of the campus was a big plus.
7. Great social environment. I loved Olympia.
8. The open, honest atmosphere of the campus.
9. The open learning environment with student interaction.
10. The relaxed atmosphere and do-what-you-want-to mentality.
11. I liked the fact that Evergreen had a mostly relaxed atmosphere.
12. Informal interaction with faculty; vibrant student intellectual life.
13. Love the learning atmosphere both as a contract student and regular program.
14. The ability to learn at such a quick pace in a comfortable and helpful environment.
15. Nice campus Good town. Some students are very serious and are accomplishing some amazing things.
16. The overall atmosphere; the chance to do real fieldwork, which is unusual at the undergraduate level.
17. Especially my senior year, some of my best creative works were developed, and I believe the Evergreen environment was largely responsible for that.
18. Evergreen is a unique place. It is very approachable from many different levels. The campus is welcoming and friendly, the instructors are helpful and the classes are interesting.
19. The interaction I had with students and faculty was very positive. Also, the atmosphere at Evergreen is really quite nice. The surroundings and the atmosphere of learning are very hospitable.

### **Community**

1. Sense of community.
2. A sense of community with fellow alumni.
3. The personal relationships that transcend college and continue.
4. I have made some very good friends whom I first met at Evergreen.
5. The small size of the student body fosters a good sense of community.
6. A feeling of community. I still visit the campus and correspond with faculty.
7. Evergreen's wonderful, supportive community really allowed me to focus on what I wanted to study.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

8. I really enjoyed many of the students I interacted with in the program. I loved the books I was given to read.
9. I felt more like an individual there rather than just another face like I would have been at University of Washington.
10. The personal interactions between me as a student and my faculty. I am glad I was not just a number or a name on a paper. I was a person with a face.
11. Cooperation and community building are very important to me now. Evergreen emphasizes these qualities through both group and interdisciplinary work.
12. What I appreciated most was that everyone -- faculty, staff, administration and other students -- saw me as an individual. Even the Financial Aid Office folks treated me as a human being.
13. The high caliber of my fellow students; the quality of instruction; the fellowship and kindness of the entire community; the school's commitment to its mission. I am proud to say I attended Evergreen.
14. The people, by far. The net-working possibilities. A sense of community, even in the midst of much change. The connectedness that is an inevitable part of the Evergreen education. Receiving a broader view of the world and my relationship to it.
15. I see a number of Evergreen students at my place of work as volunteers and/or interns there. I think Evergreen/Greeners have begun to establish a good relationship, a cooperative one, with the larger Olympia/South Puget Sound communities. I think more energy should be directed into strengthening Evergreen/Greeners' relationship with these communities.

**Constructing your education at Evergreen**

1. The freedom in contracts.
2. Freedom to create my own studies.
3. Freedom from course requirements.
4. Educational and intellectual freedom.
5. Freedom to build your own program
6. The ability to design my own program was instrumental in my intellectual growth.
7. Learning how to learn: personal growth with my attitudes toward academics in general.
8. A way to create an opportunity to learn anything I wanted. Chance to package an education tailor-made to my needs.
9. The ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with faculty and fellow students was particularly gratifying.
10. The ability to study what was important to me. With collaborative learning environment and freedom to study what I wanted to study.

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

11. Learning that I can do anything I set my mind to. Being able to work with a group of people who enjoy what you enjoy. Choosing my own path.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

12. Relative freedom to make your own curriculum and schedule, developing a strong habit of continuous education through reading and experimenting.
13. The depth and quality of my studies at Evergreen; the quality of the orientation and talented professors. The depth of study and independence in studies.
14. I feel most satisfied with my growth as an all-around human being. I gained much knowledge about people and the world around me as well as about myself.
15. I was allowed to design my own education. The curriculum's flexibility allowed me to enter my field even though I did not meet the traditional requirements.
16. The option of choosing to do what I wanted to in terms of class choice (i.e. no requirements, individual contracts, combined classes) was something I enjoyed.
17. I came to Evergreen with ambition and the school allowed me to pursue it fully and independently with resources including faculty who encouraged the independence.
18. The fact that I was able to study what I wanted and that I learned about the current state of reality environmentally and politically and that I learned history from the voice of the oppressed.
19. I learned how to learn at Evergreen. Learning for learning's sake is something I place a lot of value on. I gained this attitude at Evergreen. I learned that honest analysis can be very rewarding and helps in deciphering political jargon and systems.
20. I think the most positive aspects of studying at Evergreen were: the opportunity to learn collectively; the opportunity to learn to communicate well and express myself appropriately and gain confidence in seminar; learning that I was responsible for my own education; learning how to think carefully; close contact with professors; that it supported and encouraged my love of learning.

**Critical thinking skills**

1. Critical analysis.
2. Analyzing written information.
3. Great instruction in critical thinking.
4. Development of critical thinking skills.
5. Analytical skills in writing and discussion.
6. Independent critical thinking and analysis.
7. Critical reading, writing and speaking skills.
8. Critically analyzing written and spoken information.
9. Critical thinking: makes real world problem solving easier.
10. Evergreen's experiential style and critical analysis style is helpful in many realms.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

11. The amount of reading and writing I did. It helped me to think a lot before I react.
12. The beautiful campus and the skills I learned in critical thinking and open-mindedness.
13. Critically analyzing information and thinking critically are the skills I learned most strongly.
14. Exposure to wide-ranging analysis that allowed me to see interrelations across time and space.
15. Analyzing written materials: I use this skill daily in my current position and I am quite good at it.
16. I am most satisfied with Evergreen's influence on my critical analysis and problem-solving skills.
17. Evergreen pushed my critical thinking skills. I had an opportunity to challenge many of my own beliefs and values.
18. Ability to critically analyze material and articulate that understanding. Evergreen is very good at developing these talents in willing students.
19. Critical reading, thinking and writing were areas new to me. The ability to learn these three key skills made my educational experience successful.
20. Most satisfying and which I feel quite certain is directly related to my education, is my ability to think critically and deconstruct art, literature, media images.
21. I am most satisfied with my critical analysis skills. Evergreen has really taught me to think. My problem-solving and identifying skills were most honed by Evergreen.
22. Critically analyzing written information: seminar, for me, was a tool that allowed me to read a piece of writing and then analyze it in every way I knew how. Talking with others about my views only enhanced my ability to critically analyze.
23. Critical thinking skills and knowledge in psychology, literature (post-modern, and feminist as well). Ability to make 'new' connections, learning openness to ideas and ways of knowing. The academic, intellectual challenges in reading, discussion, and writing -- I learned a lot

**Defining and solving problems**

1. Defining and solving problems: how else could I survive?
2. Allowing unconventional approaches to contemporary problems.
3. With my heightened awareness of societal problems and global awareness.
4. Problem-solving, from the framing of the correct question to completing a plan to answer the question.
5. Defining and solving problems; working cooperatively in a group. I feel that my experiences at Evergreen have enabled me to think through problems from different perspectives.
6. Defining and solving problems. A number of teachers I had wouldn't let me be fuzzy about ideas. They helped show me I was wasting time if I didn't define what I was trying to show or do. As for solving problems, a little less satisfied.

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

7. The ability to use real-world problems in which there are no textbook answers as class material. This prepared me to accept that by making assumptions based on the available information I could develop real-world solutions that I could have confidence in.

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### **Different philosophies and cultures**

1. Cultural studies.
2. Understanding other cultures.
3. Tolerance for other viewpoints improved.
4. Group work, cross-cultural, multicultural reading, speaking.
5. My openness toward different worldly (or even in town) opinions and lifestyles.
6. Learning about other cultures was the most interesting part of Evergreen for me!
7. The ability to speak openly about my views and respecting other people's viewpoints.
8. Exposure to non-mainstream views through texts, performances, film, visual art, seminars.
9. Cultural awareness: courses allowed me to become aware of the different cultures' rituals and religion.
10. Evergreen helped me to see different perspectives/points of views on subjects, i.e. become more open-minded.
11. Evergreen helped me to learn about cultures other than my own. I am now interested in learning more about history and other cultures.
12. Personally, I loved what I learned at Evergreen in understanding other cultures and our culture, and so I learned more about myself and my family, community.
13. Understanding different philosophies and cultures. The Tacoma Campus speaks for itself in this area. There couldn't have been a better place for cultural and philosophical diversity.
14. I'm able to still hold on to the notion that I can make a difference. I haven't felt any pressure to conform in a restrictive sense. Understanding different philosophies and cultures: my broader understanding of the world in general.
15. Exposure to different ideas and cultures. The small-class experience that facilitated personal reflection and growth. Evergreen was very helpful in breaking my rural county isolation around different philosophies and cultures.
16. I think that Evergreen's acceptance of diversity of thought and opinion increased my learning experience. I wasn't told how to think; I was exposed to many different ways of thinking, and encouraged to express my own knowledge. Everyone is a teacher and everyone is a student.
17. The main thing I learned wasn't in class. As an older student I learned that I could function and cooperate with other students from very diverse backgrounds and age groups. One of the main skills I developed while at Evergreen was interacting with and understand the views of diverse cultures. I found this to be very helpful in communicating with others.
18. Understanding different philosophies and cultures: I believe that Evergreen presents the opportunity for anyone to find the space to explore any pursuit that interests them. Especially unconventional

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combinations. Because of the diversity that this fosters teachers seem particularly sensitive to sharing and exploring different philosophies and cultures.

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### **Diversity**

1. Diversity.
2. Diversity and open-mindedness
3. Diversity among faculty/staff/students.
4. Wonderful diversity of age and interest (if not race).
5. The opportunities for personal growth as a person of color.
6. Working with people of different ideals and values, and the mutual respect gained, was an asset to my personal growth.
7. I appreciated the zero tolerance toward sexism and the support for women. I also liked the honesty and closeness that developed between faculty and students. I also felt that classes and activities were very inclusive -- anyone could join regardless of prior experience or background.

### **Environment and society**

1. Understanding interaction of society and environment seemed to be the most resurgent theme in each class no matter what subject.
2. Understanding the interaction of society and the environment, and opportunities to learn computer skills were my two most satisfied areas of learning. By society and environment, I don't think ecological but the society of people at a workplace and how they mold their own environment. The proper actions and behavior make it pleasurable or not, a place that is conducive to learning or not. I learned how important attitudes can be.

### **Environmental Science**

1. Traveling and working outdoors with plants and animals was great.
2. My hands-on **Geology** class. I got a lot of hands-on and experiential education during my programs at Evergreen.
3. The environmental science classes with field work. I loved walking the streams and rivers and boating in Puget Sound. **Rainforests**.
4. My ability to take an opportunity to its fullest. For example conducting research in the **Marine Environment** program which I presented to the 1995 Puget Sound Research Conference.
5. The classes/programs I took were **The Marine Environment, Physical/Inorganic Chemistry**, and a seminar in the use of the SEU. All were comprehensive, and, perhaps, were the best scientifically oriented classes I ever had in college.
6. I have a very well-rounded education for my vague field. I am skilled in **Maritime Navigation, Fisheries, Marine Biology** and **Oceanography**. I feel like I could go anywhere and do everything with this array of skills and knowledge. I don't think I could have acquired a better education anywhere. The curriculum was exciting and studies were hands-on and relevant in the professional world.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

### **Expressive Arts**

1. *Ethnomusicology* program.
2. Gaining self-confidence as an artist.
3. Exposure to great art and great artists.
4. Understanding and appreciating the arts.
5. My quarter in *Ethnomusicology* was very good as well.
6. Developing my personal expressive abilities. Learning to look deeper than face value.
7. I was also exposed to art and literature that I would not have seen at any other institution.
8. I was most satisfied during my junior year when I was enrolled in a year-long class, *The Mythic Image*. In that class I developed most of my skills of listening and seeing.
9. At Evergreen, I was always treated as an important individual with valid talents and ideas to offer, even if others disagreed with my ideas. I felt I was in a relatively safe testing ground in which to develop and exhibit my art, music, and performance skills.
10. The time and resources to fully invest myself in art and creative writing. The opportunity to get feedback and support for my creative work. Confidence building that I can do things like write a 70-page paper and record and produce my own tape of my music.
11. Collaborative work in the theater was a great experience. I love the way I ended up working with people I wouldn't have chosen to work with and ended up making close friends. I liked the process of working out personal conflicts through art. Most of all, I loved working in collaboration and learning to solve the age-old problems that arose. I benefited quite a bit from the collaborative process, the emphasis on discussion, and the freedom to take initiative to organize my own program and my own performances.

### **Faculty at Evergreen**

1. Faculty
2. Faculty.
3. Professors.
4. Accessibility to faculty.
5. Good faculty interaction
6. Quality of academic staff.
7. The closeness with faculty.
8. Individual time with instructors.
9. The quality of the teaching staff.
10. Quality of professors and classes.
11. FACULTY: absolutely amazing!

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

12. The close contact with my instructors.
13. Working with extremely talented faculty.
14. The helpfulness of faculty and other students.
15. Faculty were really involved with the students.
16. Quality faculty -- all my professors were topnotch.
17. The instructors are some of the best in the country.
18. The time the faculty spent with students individually.
19. Enjoying school and intimately knowing my teachers.
20. I feel the faculty at Evergreen are excellent instructors.
21. Faculty relationships and support; able to do internship.
22. The one-on-one learning experiences with my professors.
23. The faculty was awesome. The faculty overall is excellent.
24. The faculty is excellent, especially the veterans (old-timers).
25. Sense of the professors' passions about what they were teaching.
26. Working with faculty on an intimate basis helped my academic career.
27. The wonderful teachers and classes I had the opportunity to experience.
28. My faculty continually challenged me and motivated me to achieve my goals.
29. Faculty contact opportunities were good compared to large public institutions.
30. I had some wonderful instructors that gave me great confidence in my abilities.
31. The opportunity to have a very close academic relationship with my instructors.
32. Working with faculty. Excellent opportunities to work directly with professors.
33. I worked mainly with one instructor; he taught me a lot and always had time to talk.
34. The involvement of (some) faculty outside of the school in various social movements.
35. Faculty who were committed to helping students become thinkers and problem solvers.
36. Knowledgeable instructors with valuable information to share. Instructors were wonderful.
37. I enjoyed the integrated curriculum and continuity with faculty. I had a lot of faculty contact time.
38. The efforts of the faculty to clearly explain the courses taken and the accomplishments of the students.
39. Professors were willing to be supportive and help with individual projects. Supportive teachers.
40. Thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sit down with instructors and discuss projects, class, and direction.
41. Instruction: some of my professors were great! I had one incredible quarter in the **Russian Studies** program.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

42. If you know what you want, Evergreen can help, the faculty I mean. In general they helped me in a lot of ways.
43. The faculty and staff are high quality and the institution is run so that the learning experience is rewarding and fun.
44. Working with faculty who presented themselves as co-learners helped to create a positive learning environment.
45. The quality of instructors was wonderful; I felt all my professors were knowledgeable and available for consultation.
46. My teachers were always well-informed and generally in tune with current events. They were all approachable and often good speakers.
47. One-on-one work with professors. I was already very self-motivated and Evergreen encouraged and supported me in this way.
48. The faculty were outstanding; their advice, encouragement, and genuine concern for me made Evergreen a joy and made me work to achieve my best.
49. Opportunities to work individually with faculty. The faculty I dealt with were genuinely interested in spending time with me to deal with individual concerns.
50. Faculty: personal interaction. I called them all by their first names, have been to all of their houses, have talked at length with all of them about academic and personal things.
51. It was the professors and their abilities that made the most impact. This in combination with the teaching methods adopted by Evergreen made the educational experience a very positive one.
52. The opportunities to work with faculty. The help and guidance I got from my program faculty was great. They put a good effort in to help when I asked or even when I didn't sometimes.
53. A positive aspect which stands out for me is the amount of help I received from each faculty member I had. I know this is not common at the undergraduate level in many other universities.
54. The Evergreen faculty I worked with were willing to work with my particular needs and interests. They were supportive and flexible. I had the opportunity to explore areas that most interested me and to write sincerely on those topics.
55. Opportunities to work individually with faculty: I always was given one-on-one time with faculty for personal, professional, and academic discussions. They were genuinely interested in helping students succeed, understand and enjoy their education.
56. Evergreen gave me the opportunity to rearrange my academic priorities and focus in areas that really interested me and that highlighted my skills as well as challenging me to develop those skills with adequate support from faculty. And that's the second thing that stands out: access to outstanding faculty.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

57. The ability to study with some of the best faculty I could imagine. Contracting to do exactly what I wanted with topnotch faculty who brought out the best work I could do. Recognizing the interconnectedness of issues which allows for a wider perspective of the world and political, social, economic problems.
58. Felt my teachers were very knowledgeable about the material they taught and very respectful toward traditions and ideas that were not "mainstream." The faculty members' commitment to me as a student. They were very willing to spend their time working with me and they offered me lots of encouragement, support, and advice.

**Humanities and Language Arts**

1. Literary and performance experience.
2. The **French** program and its professors were outstanding.
3. The study of literature and languages (*Spanish, Italian*) was of great benefit.
4. Receiving credit for independently designed studies (here and in *Japan*).

**Independent learning**

1. Independent thinker!
2. Independent learning.
3. Independent thinking.
4. I feel more confident to do research.
5. I am a very strong independent learner because of Evergreen. I am also very good at problem solving.
6. I like being able to take responsibility for my education, not just another student being shuffled through the hoops and jumps.
7. Independent learning and equipment (lab, computer) Was forced to take control of my education, more so than at other universities.
8. Read reward and opportunity for the self-starter. I can't stress enough how directionless many graduates are at other schools after four+ years of someone else telling them what to do.
9. Ability to learn and think independently as well as applying knowledge in group situations. Evergreen taught me, as my first college did not, to respect and take responsibility for my own education, my own conduct, my own ideas.
10. Rather than lecturing at me, Evergreen gave me various tools and resources and said "go do it and show us what you learned." This allowed me to learn things for myself, which is much more effective than just being told what to do.

**Instruction**

1. Quality education.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

2. The quality of education.
3. The quality of instruction.
4. The quality of instruction.
5. The quality of instruction.
6. Quality of instruction/facilities.
7. Student/teacher ratio; group projects and seminar
8. Academic challenges and the quality of instruction offered.
9. Flexibility and integrity within studies. Evergreen is great!
10. Diverse fields of study, imaginative and interactive ways of learning.
11. Most classes were very well-taught and ambitious in the topics tackled
12. Field classes, seminars, faculty, integrated studies, faculty-to-student ratio
13. The philosophies of teaching/learning helped me enjoy learning. I enjoyed my classes.
14. Opportunity to explore academically. Learning how to think, as opposed to what to think.
15. I found the instruction methods, text books, and subject matter to be on the cutting edge of what is happening in our present-day society.
16. I received a great liberal arts education. I learned how to think and be aware and sensitive to other people's needs, but I am able to stand up for myself and get what I want.
17. Liked the structure of programs: read and write a journal individually, seminar and break into small teams for group process, work on research projects alternately by self and with others.
18. The education/instruction I received from Evergreen were topnotch! I am very satisfied with Evergreen's contribution to my academic growth in several areas. It would be hard to choose only one. Great learning experience -- taught me to look at bigger picture.
19. Comparing my education with other graduate students really helped me realize what a truly special and incredible education I received. The class size was amazing and the way in which my need to always question was encouraged and refined has really profited me as a person and academically.

**Interdisciplinary approach**

1. Interdisciplinary studies.
2. Interdisciplinary courses.
3. Coordinated study format.
4. Interdisciplinary education.
5. Multi-disciplinary learning opportunities
6. Interdisciplinary education and a cooperative learning environment.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

7. The ability to study diverse areas of interest. I believe I received a well-rounded education.
8. Interdisciplinary learning, conflict management, diversity in culture, support of faculty and students.
9. It also exposed me to an interdisciplinary curriculum which most of the high schools are trying to switch to.
10. The freedom to study a wide variety of subjects, and to interconnect those studies, was a great benefit to me.
11. The interdisciplinary format: no majors -- took anything and everything that interested me, felt free to dabble.
12. The interdisciplinary approach to education with a strong multicultural emphasis was extremely valuable.
13. Interdisciplinary approach to subjects. Nothing in life is as clear-cut as other colleges' 101-type classes would have you believe.
14. Interdisciplinary approach and opportunity to work closely with faculty and construct my own education. These are unique (almost) qualities in undergraduate and made my education far more meaningful than I would likely have achieved most anywhere else.

**Motivation to learn, personal growth, other positive comments**

1. My whole experience at Evergreen was positive.
2. Self-motivated learning. Learning self-motivation.
3. Self-empowerment allowed me to take responsibility for my own education.
4. Increased political awareness, substantially heightened self-motivation and patience.
5. At Evergreen, I learned how to learn, how to teach myself, and effective study skills.
6. The ability to learn without structure. Self-discipline became an important skill, and remains one.
7. Evergreen was a very empowering atmosphere for me to push my boundaries and really explore.
8. Self-motivation. I am most satisfied with the confidence I gained by working independently in my field.
9. I felt lucky to have the chance to be able to return to school and complete my BA in the evening/weekend program.
10. It was a time of learning that was very positive for me and I learned a great about myself and what I was capable of learning.
11. My two years at Evergreen, the fine faculty, and the fact that I was receptive to such growth made the personal improvement easier.
12. Personal growth/communication: I feel that Evergreen helped me to develop who I am, and to be able to communicate that to other people.

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

13. I learned how to learn, to make connections between topics, and was able to take charge of my own education instead of being spoon-fed well-roundedness.
14. The primary asset in my education today that I have gained from Evergreen is the certainty that I am capable of anything as long as I set my mind to it and put in the time.
15. In the strong sense of self that was nurtured while at Evergreen. I have confidence that anything I desire to learn is accessible to me because of the background I have acquired.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

16. In the broadest sense, Evergreen is wonderful for its cooperative spirit of learning, while most schools are driven by competition. The emphasis there was on my personal learning, not just positioning myself for success.
17. Evergreen radically changed my life as a liberal arts education should. It has made me an observer and a lifelong seeker of knowledge and authenticity. Evergreen taught me to keep learning for the sake of learning.
18. The self-confidence I developed as a result of the mix of independent and teamwork projects. I felt the balance between the two types of work were well balanced. Loved the opportunity to seminar, pursue ideas further.
19. Evergreen helped me discover a love of learning that I had lost in high school and it gave me a sense of accomplishment and intelligence that changed my life. Met incredible people; discovered entire new areas of interests; raised my own faith in myself and my intellectual abilities; taught me to question, but with compassion.

**Narrative evaluations**

1. Loved evaluations rather than grades.
2. Receiving self-evaluations and faculty evaluations.
3. I was most satisfied with the quality of the instructors. Beyond having the necessary academic skills, also had the personal skills necessary to evaluate each person based on their learning style and personality.
4. Evergreen's evaluation process taught me how to effectively evaluate my skills and helped me to identify areas I needed to work on. The faculty members were patient with me and sensitive to my needs.
5. The evaluation process and student/faculty relationships were encouraging and aided my esteem as a student. It enabled me to make appropriate education and career choices with positive guidance from professors.

**Readiness for career**

1. Preparation for a career in science.
2. The skills I acquired at Evergreen prepared me for the career I chose.
3. The ability to focus specifically on courses that directly apply to my career.
4. I learned how to read and interpret WAC and RCW -- very important (and impressive) in my work now.
5. Having the self-confidence to survive and compete in the post-education arena. I feel that my time spent in the Evergreen atmosphere prepared me for the real-world work atmosphere of working in groups, as well as writing and speaking effectively.

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

### **Readiness for advanced education**

1. Hard science in *Matter and Motion* was key to entry to graduate school.
2. In terms of writing and being prepared for graduate school I feel I am as prepared, if not more so, than my peers.
3. I felt very prepared for my graduate education and was surprised how similar Evergreen's methods were to graduate school. Confidence in my academic abilities.
4. Speaking effectively: having arrived at graduate school seminars, I now realize what a tremendous asset and skill it is to be able to speak, listen, and facilitate educational discussion.
5. Readiness for advanced education: I am going to go on to graduate school, and I am ready to do my experiences in seminars at Evergreen and my opportunity to work one-on-one with a professor. I think all colleges should offer integrated programs as Evergreen does.

### **Readiness for "real world"**

1. Evergreen most closely reflected the conditions I encountered in the so-called real world.
2. Evergreen prepared me for the real world by teaching me to ask questions and to learn how to find my own answers. Talked with alumni of traditional schools; I've been realizing how unique my Evergreen education was.
3. Being put in a position to take an active role in my education translates to taking an active role in my career and my life! Thanks! The areas in which I am most satisfied seem to be the areas that are most built into the whole of Evergreen curriculum. They are overall skill areas which are ingrained in all courses; that's why I have a feeling of accomplishment in them.

### **Rights and responsibilities as citizen**

1. I truly believe my association with Evergreen changed my life and made me a better person/citizen.
2. Evergreen made me acknowledge and recognize my role as a world citizen and the duties that come along with it.
3. At Evergreen Tacoma I became more enlightened with regard to my personal and professional role/responsibility as a citizen-of-the-world.
4. *Community Development* because it was empowering and applicable and inspirational. In recognizing responsibilities as a citizen and appreciating the complexity of interrelationships between environment and society.
5. I feel I changed to a more active individual living in Olympia. I was able to live in a different part of the country while attending school. I feel I have more knowledge of my rights as a citizen. I value myself more highly than before I attended Evergreen.

*In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?*

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### **Science and Math**

1. The science department.
2. The quantitative and computer skills I gained.
3. The wonderful science program, really training people well in those fields.
4. Learning to use computers and scientific equipment was also fun and interesting.
5. The friendships I made with some of my (science) professors provided me with mentors.
6. I also received a sound background in ALL the sciences so when I teach biology, I know the chemistry involved.
7. The use of equipment in the sciences; got to learn the use of equipment that a lot of other students from other schools do not.
8. I am most satisfied with my education in the scientific field. I felt that my faculty took their time to explain everything well and spent lots of time with each student.
9. I really feel that Evergreen has an exceptional science department. I grew mentally and emotionally while I was being pushed to understand the world through the scientific paradigm.
10. Excellent, hardworking science faculty. Faculty were always available and attentive; good one-to-one learning and teaching. Workshop problem-solving approach in the sciences is very good.
11. I loved my work in the natural sciences. I also loved the pragmatic approach to quantitative studies. I liked the balance that was maintained between theory and practice. It seemed as though my experience was very tactile.
12. I am very satisfied with the ability I now have to teach myself to think flexibly and defend convictions, and the science and philosophy of science I learned at Evergreen. I am more responsible, determined and aware of the world around me than the chemistry students graduating from the University of Arizona.
13. The faculty in the sciences (especially *Chemistry*) were exceptional. I had access to almost every piece of instrumentation I could want, lab stores, lab time, faculty available for questions, lab assistants, computers. The faculty were not only active in their fields (research) but excellent instructors as well. Good mix of male/female in these areas, as well.

### **Seminars**

1. Effective use of seminars.
2. Seminars (good seminars).
3. Team teaching; seminars; low teacher/student ratio.
4. Seminars -- freedom of speech and ideas. Book seminars helped.
5. The positive, collaborative, and sometimes outspoken seminar groups.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

6. Relatively small seminar groups of dedicated students who were serious about their studies.
7. Faculty and discussion groups were great and really taught me a lot. Small class size; intelligent seminar discussions.
8. As a student at Evergreen it was all right, and even preferred, if you wished to challenge the information put out in class or seminar.
9. Seminars, seminar papers, and essays helped a lot. I see this as a basic, inherent advantage in Evergreen's structure (one class at a time, etc.)
10. The rich variety of lifestyles and perspectives that meld during seminar. Most of the classes I attended had an age range from 19-60. Wonderful.
11. Seminars: discussions with many other students and learning new perspectives. Also, for a shy person like me it was a forum to share my ideas.
12. It was in seminar that the most effective and long-lasting learning took place and where both personal and educational growth were most apparent.
13. Furthermore, the seminar process has been fundamental to my growth in critical analysis. A skilled seminar leader and cooperative group are also essential to the process.
14. Seminars -- a family-like cohesion developed. You never forget what you forged with the team, and what you learned. Current trends and ideas, as well as traditional material/ coursework is emphasized.
15. Seminar with diverse groups; learning to speak my mind in large groups; learning to be open to new experiences; being given the freedom to try new things, to experiment, and the encouragement I found in professors and peers.
16. Specifically: seminar, access to and dialogue with faculty and the unceasing support of creative endeavors. I think Evergreen's strength is that it teaches you to struggle to understand other people's perspectives without abandoning your own.
17. Evergreen provided me with an atmosphere that encouraged personal expression of ideas, ideals, personal views, etc. in seminars and in writing papers. Attending school that breaks the standard mold; working as a group; seminar with students and faculty.
18. I am most satisfied with Evergreen's contribution to my ability to critically analyze information, think independently, and express myself in speaking and writing. I believe these skills were taught and learned very effectively in seminar. In my opinion, the seminar experience is the best that Evergreen has to offer for the responsibility for learning rests and falls on the student's own shoulders.

**Speaking effectively**

1. Learning how to speak on your feet.
2. I feel more able to orally communicate confidently.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

3. Learning how to speak my views and do so effectively.
4. Speaking in a group was a challenging and powerful learning experience.
5. Learning to effectively get my point across in a clear and concise manner.
6. Education and ability to have courage/esteem in my analysis/speaking capacity.
7. I feel I grew in my ability to express myself both verbally and through written expression.
8. Conversation skills were improved.. I learned a lot about myself. I do feel that my listening skills improved.
9. Speaking publicly has been a focal point of many classes I have taken and I have made great personal growth.
10. Speaking effectively: in group discussions now I can think back to seminar and remain confident when speaking.

**Technology and computers**

1. Excellent computer applications growth
2. Availability of high-tech equipment: fast computers, scanning electron microscope.
3. With the opportunities I had to learn about computers and a programming language. I was able to work closely with some very excellent instructors. I learned not only the subject matter from them, but also I learned how to be an effective teacher.

**Working cooperatively in a group**

1. Ability to work in a group.
2. Group work: on-the-job skills.
3. My ability to work with people.
4. Working cooperatively in groups.
5. Working cooperatively in a group.
6. Working cooperatively in a group.
7. Constructive criticism. Group study skills.
8. Working in small groups, group discussions.
9. Working with groups, critical thinking, writing effectively.
10. How to work in a group and how to manage time and projects.
11. Working in small groups; so much discussion with other students.
12. Team effort was promoted, a skill which is used in day-to-day life.
13. Evergreen is a great school! It prepared me to work with others and collaborate ideas.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

14. Working as a team; encouragement from professors. Working cooperatively in a group.
15. Working cooperatively in a group. Everyone was one if not the best experience of my life.
16. I've never liked working in groups but Evergreen forced me to many times, and I had some good experiences.
17. With being able to work in groups effectively and with being able to teach myself whatever it is I need to know.
18. The ability to work in a group. I learned how to be cooperative and have maintained that ability in my current job.
19. Working cooperatively in a group: I learned effective skills for facilitating and moving groups ahead and past difficult issues.
20. I became aware of my abilities in teamwork situations and became an excellent and effective speaker and writer. I found self-confidence.
21. Evergreen sets up a good environment in which to learn how to troubleshoot with others. It teaches group responsibility and group rewards.
22. Learning from doing and working with others: I believe Evergreen shapes people, not scholars, and believe the former to be equally as important as the latter.
23. I learned how to discuss ideas well and be an active part of discussions. I feel comfortable discussing ideas/topics with groups and feel that I am able to convey my ideas in a way that others understand them.
24. Working cooperatively in a group: while I came to Evergreen with a lot of cooperative experience in theater and music, I gained confidence in initiating group work. I also developed networking skills as well as an understanding of group dynamics and a collaborative spirit.
25. I feel most satisfied with Evergreen's contribution to my group participation skills. I've always worked well independently; it was a surprise to find myself among such creative and intelligent peers, all dedicated to the program content. I think the student population was the most intelligent and creative I have ever been a part of. The teaching was excellent as well.

**Writing effectively**

1. Writing.
2. Writing effectively.
3. With improving writing skill.
4. My writing improved enormously.
5. Writing ability strongly improved.
6. The ability to write more effectively.
7. Communication skills: written and oral.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

8. I liked the freedom of expression in writing.
9. The emphasis of writing and problem solving.
10. The writing experiences were very beneficial.
11. Writing effectively: spent the most time at this.
12. Writing research papers and doing independent research.
13. Writing effectively and critically analyzing written information.
14. To understand complicated information and strong writing skills.
15. Writing effectively: the faculty was very demanding and expected a lot.
16. Writing effectively. I was a poor writer before I came to Evergreen. Evergreen improved my writing.
17. Writing effectively, especially how to do research and prepare a paper describing that research.
18. Writing: my program of study required a lot of writing and these skills were well-developed at Evergreen.
19. Writing effectively is an invaluable skill that I gained from Evergreen programs and the help of writing tutors.
20. I was most satisfied with the individual writing and analysis instruction I was given by such wonderful teachers.
21. Writing effectively; I thought I could write well. I learned how to be direct and include pertinent information.
22. I am forever grateful for the writing tutor, and the many hours we all spent working very hard on my writing abilities.
23. Writing, speaking, group and individual work were all very strong/key attributes of my Evergreen educational experience.
24. Writing was the best part of Evergreen. I came in with little skill or experience and left with strong skills and tons of experience.
25. Writing effectively: class assignment greatly helped my ability to gather and translate information in my role/job as a free-lance writer.
26. Writing effectively: as a reporter, I feel that strong writing skills are essential. My studies at Evergreen helped to strengthen my writing abilities.
27. I am most satisfied with the writing and research skills I learned and the opportunities I had to develop internships that supported my learning skills.
28. Writing effectively because I took a class for that specific reason even it it's not apparent in my writing right now because this does not allow for revision.

***In which area were you the most satisfied as far as Evergreen's contribution to your academic and personal growth?***

29. I feel my writing skills have improved a great deal since my 1st year in college. I was very pleased with almost all aspects of my experience at Evergreen.
30. I had never brought my creative writing into my academic studies before and my instructor used the perfect combination of critical help and hands-off teaching style.
31. Writing: this an area where I was terrible before attending Evergreen, and I still need some improvement. But the reports I have written have forced me to work on this weakness.
32. The most satisfying part of my Evergreen experience was being able to create something worthwhile while I learned to write novels. It was memorable and rewarding time spent to attend Evergreen and associate with fellow classmates and the staff and faculty.
33. Preparing and writing paper after paper was very helpful for both developing writing effectively: I knew I needed to work hard in this area when I came to Evergreen and the resources were available for me to do so.
34. My time at Evergreen gave me the opportunity and the space I needed to overcome my writer's block and make a great deal of progress as a writer. The encouragement I received in my efforts to start writing again after years of not being able to tap into my emotions in my work, to relay how something I'd read or seen affected me.