

Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2013

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 2013 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.

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 2012.

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	421	11.7%	141	11.8%
Sophomores	624	17.4%	208	17.3%
Juniors	1088	30.3%	363	30.3%
Seniors or Post-baccalaureate	1461	40.7%	488	40.7%

Students enrolled spring quarter 2013 that completed the New Student Survey 2012 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 2012 who were enrolled spring 2013 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 2013 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 eight-hundred and forty-one undergraduates were invited to participate in the Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2013. Six hundred forty-one additional students who were not part of the Olympia random sample were surveyed:

- All degree-seeking Tribal students (N=33)
- All Degree-seeking Tacoma students (N=196)
- All Degree-seeking Grays Harbor students (N=33)
- Evergreen New Student Survey 2012 respondents not selected in the initial Olympia campus random sample enrolled as of 10th day (N=378).

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 415 responses to the Evergreen Student Experience Survey, representing 11.5% of the 3,594 degree-seeking undergraduates enrolled spring quarter. 415 of 1,841 students responded, giving an overall response rate of 22.5%. 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 2013.

Response Rates by Sample Types

Sample	Number of Respondents	Number in Sample	Response Rate
Students in Random Sample	242	1200	20.2%
Students enrolled in Tacoma Program	38	197	19.3%
Students enrolled in Grays Harbor Program	10	33	30.3%
Students enrolled in Tribal: Reservation-based/Community-determined Programs	4	33	12.1%
Additional Olympia students who responded to the Evergreen New Student Survey 2011 and were not selected in random sample	121	378	32.0%
Total	415	1841	22.5%

Of the total number of students responding, 334 responded via the web (80.5% of respondents), and 81 responded by mail (19.5% 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=242)
- Students studying at the Tacoma campus (N=38)
- All first-time, first-year respondents who were new in Fall 2008 (N=81)
- Students who responded to both the Evergreen New Student Survey 2012 and Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2013 (N=121 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.