

The Evergreen State College
 Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2006
 Responses of Students in the Tacoma Program

Diversity at Evergreen

Students were asked a series of questions regarding the importance of diversity to learning, the amount of respect for diversity, and interactions with people on campus who are different from themselves in terms of backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles. On the question regarding the importance of diversity on campus to learning, the most common response among Tacoma respondents was that diversity was "Very" important (48.7%) and 35.9% indicated "Quite a Bit." About 5% of Tacoma respondents indicated that diversity is "Not at All" important, 2.6% indicated "A Little Bit," and 7.7% indicated "Somewhat" important.

On the question, "How much respect do you think there is for different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles on campus?" the most common response was split between "Quite a Bit" and "A Lot." There were no respondents who indicated that there is no respect and 5.3% indicated "Very Little." Slightly more than 15% indicated that there was "Some" respect.

How important do you think diversity on campus is to your learning? (N=39)

Not at all (0)	A Little Bit (1)	Somewhat (2)	Quite a Bit (3)	Very (4)	Skipped question (N)
5.1%	2.6%	7.7%	35.9%	48.7%	0

Mean = 3.21

Median = 3.00

How much respect do you think there is for different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles on campus? (N=38)

None (0)	Very Little (1)	Some (2)	Quite a bit (3)	A Lot (4)	Skipped question (N)
0.0%	5.3%	15.8%	39.5%	39.5%	1

Mean = 3.13

Median = 3.00

How do you feel about your interactions with people at Evergreen who have different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles than your own?

A total of 35 of the 39 Tacoma respondents wrote a response to this question. Responses were categorized to protect confidentiality and to identify patterns among responses. Some students had multiple comments that fit within different categories. See the table on the next page that shows the number of comments within each category.

Type of Comment	Number of Respondents with Type of	Percent with type of comment
Interactions are enriching learning experiences	12	30.8%
Interactions described as "Great," "Good," or "Wonderful" with no qualifications	10	25.6%

Type of Comment	Number of Respondents with Type of	Percent with type of comment
Interactions described as "Great," "Good," or "Wonderful" but with qualifications	1	2.6%
Interactions described as "Fine," "Pretty Good," "OK," or "Comfortable" with no qualifications	5	12.8%
Respondents described themselves as open or respectful	4	10.3%
People are judgmental and biased against or not accepting of other races, ethnicities, cultures	4	10.3%
People are judgmental and biased against or not accepting of other political views	1	2.6%
People are judgmental and biased against others generally/for other reasons	1	2.6%
Not enough diversity at Evergreen/more diversity needed	2	5.1%
Not on campus much or do not interact with others/keep to one's self	2	5.1%
People are open and accepting on campus	1	2.6%
Everyone's different/don't pay attention to differences	1	2.6%
Don't have this type of interaction often with people different from self/doesn't occur generally	1	2.6%

Below are descriptions of the most common patterns among responses:

Interactions are Enriching Learning Experiences

The largest proportion of respondents (30.8%) said something about the importance of interactions with people at Evergreen who have different backgrounds, perspectives, and lifestyles to learning. One respondent wrote, "I feel the interactions have been great. We all seem to be learning more about the variations in culture and we are learning the importance of understanding the diverseness of each other."

Interactions Described as "Great," "Good," or "Wonderful"

Over a quarter of Tacoma respondents used language such as "great," "good," or "wonderful" to describe their interactions at Evergreen. A total of 25.6% described their experiences with this kind of language and did not qualify the language in any way. One respondent (2.6%) used this kind of positive language, but added qualifications, saying that "Tacoma Campus is big on diversity and perspectives of those diverse backgrounds - occasionally I feel we go a little extreme in that direction."

Interactions Described as "Fine," "Pretty Good," "OK," or "Comfortable"

There were five respondents (12.8%) who used language such as "fine," "pretty good," "OK," or other similar language to describe their interactions.

Respondents Described Themselves as Open or Respectful

Four respondents focused on their own ability to be open to others who are different from themselves. These respondents used language that indicated "they don't have a problem" interacting with people who are different or that they do not judge other people based on their background, lifestyles, or perspectives.

People are Judgmental and Biased Against or Not Accepting of Other Races, Ethnicities, Cultures

Four respondents said they felt people did not seem as accepting of people of other races, ethnicities, or cultures.