

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
2006 ALUMNI SURVEY OF THE CLASS OF 2004-05
TACOMA PROGRAM SUBSET SUMMARY

A. Sample and Response Rates

Total Tacoma Program Undergraduate Degree Recipients AY 2004-05	88
Number with no known address and/or e-mail	0
<i>(Note: Survey contact was attempted, but all mail and e-mail contacts were returned undeliverable, and we were unable to locate more recent contact information.)</i>	
Deceased	0
Final Sample Size	88
Refusal	1
No Response	62
Paper Survey Respondents	14
Web Survey Respondents	11
Total Respondents	25 28.4% response rate

The following Tacoma subset analysis includes the responses of the 25 alumni who were coded as Tacoma program in the Banner tracking system, plus two additional alumni whose survey responses indicated that Tacoma was the campus primarily attended (despite being coded as Olympia at the time of graduation). Thus, the total respondent group for this report is 27 alumni.

B. Respondent Demographics

All 27 of the Tacoma Program alumni earned Bachelor of Arts degrees. Alumni respondents ranged in age from 23 to 61. Their average age was 40, and median age was 38. Washington State was the current residence of 26 of the 27 Tacoma respondents (96%). The other alum was living in Utah.

Alumni identified the one area that best described their primary area of study at Evergreen; the distribution of their responses is presented in the next table.

Primary area of study (concentration) at Evergreen	Total N=27
Social Sciences (Society, Politics, Behavior, and Change)	(N=18) 66.7%
Humanities, Language Arts (Culture, Text & Language)	(N=2) 7.4%
Science, Math, Computers (Scientific Inquiry)	(N=0) 0%
Media, Visual Arts, Drama (Expressive Arts)	(N=0) 0%
Environmental Studies	(N=0) 0%
Liberal Arts/Interdisciplinary Study <i>(this category includes alumni who chose more than one primary area of study, or wrote in "Liberal Arts")</i>	(N=2) 7.4%
Education	(N=5) 18.5%
Business	(N=0) 0%
Native American Studies	(N=0) 0%

- **All 27 respondents earned BA degrees.**

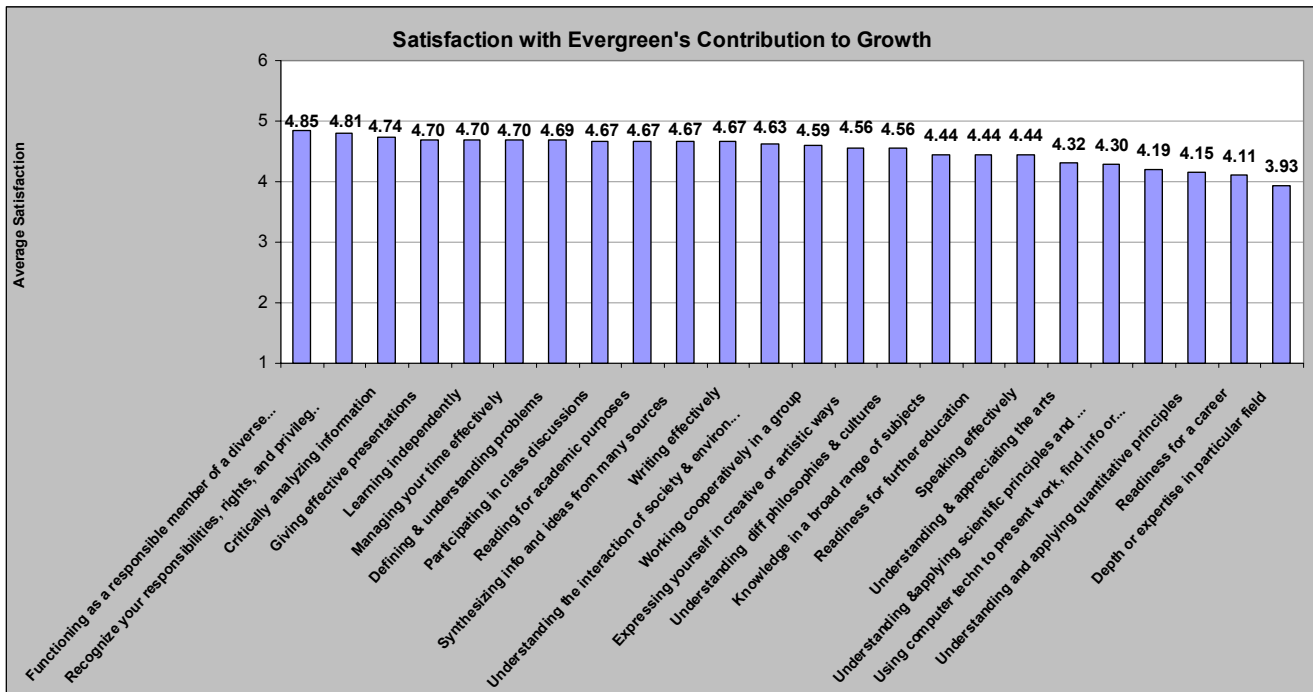
Evergreen's Contribution to Academic and Personal Growth

Alumni were asked to rate their satisfaction with Evergreen's contribution to their academic and personal growth in each of the following academic areas on a five-point scale from 1=not at all satisfied to 5=very satisfied.

Overall, the alumni felt satisfied with their growth in all areas. In all 24 areas, over half of the alumni reported being *mostly* or *very satisfied* with Evergreen's contribution (which were the top two ratings on the scale). The areas that received the highest percentage of *mostly* and *very satisfied* ratings were “critically analyzing written information” (96.3%), and “recognizing your rights, responsibilities and privileges as a citizen” (96.3%), “functioning as a responsible member of a diverse community” (96.3%), and “reading for academic purposes”. The areas that received the lowest percentage of *mostly* and *very satisfied* ratings were “depth or expertise in a particular field” (62.9%), “understanding and applying quantitative principles” (70.3%), and “Readiness for a career ” (70.3%).

Academic Areas	1 Not at all satisfied	2 Little satisfaction	3 Somewhat satisfied	4 Mostly satisfied	5 Very satisfied	N missing
Writing effectively	0	0	11.1%	11.1%	77.8%	0
Speaking effectively	0	0	11.1%	33.3%	55.6%	0
Critically analyzing information	0	0	3.7%	18.5%	77.8%	0
Learning independently	0	0	7.4%	14.8%	77.8%	0
Understanding and appreciating the arts	0	0	12.0%	44.0%	44.0%	2
Understanding and applying scientific principles and methods	0	0	25.9%	18.5%	55.6%	0
Understanding and applying quantitative principles	0	0	29.6%	25.9%	44.4%	0
Defining and understanding problems	0	0	7.7%	15.4%	76.9%	1
Working cooperatively in a group	0	0	14.8%	11.1%	74.1%	0
Readiness for a career	0	3.7%	25.9%	25.9%	44.4%	0
Readiness for further education (graduate, professional, or doctoral)	0	7.4%	11.1%	11.1%	70.4%	0
Understanding different philosophies and cultures	0	0	7.4%	29.6%	63.0%	0
Understanding the interaction of society and the environment	0	0	7.4%	22.2%	70.4%	0
Recognizing your rights, responsibilities and privileges as a citizen	0	0	3.7%	11.1%	85.2%	0
Reading for academic purposes	0	0	3.7%	25.9%	70.4%	0
Giving effective presentations	0	0	7.4%	14.8%	77.8%	0
Participation in class discussion	0	0	7.4%	18.5%	74.1%	0
Knowledge in a broad range of subjects	0	0	11.1%	33.3%	55.6%	0
Synthesizing information and ideas from many sources	0	0	7.4%	18.5%	74.1%	0
Managing your time effectively	0	0	7.4%	14.8%	77.8%	0
Functioning as a responsible member of a diverse community	0	0	3.7	7.4%	88.9%	0
Expressing yourself in creative or artistic ways	0	0	11.1	22.2%	66.7%	0
Using computer technology to present work, find information, or solve problems	0	0	22.2%	37.0%	40.7%	0
Depth or expertise in a particular field	3.7%	7.4%	25.9%	18.5%	44.4%	0

The average satisfaction rating for each academic area was calculated and the results are presented in the next chart. The average ratings for each academic area fell above the *somewhat satisfied* point on the scale.



Note: Satisfaction was rated on a five-point scale where 1=not at all satisfied, 2=little satisfaction, 3= somewhat satisfied, 4=mostly satisfied, and 5=very satisfied.

Work-related skills and abilities

Alumni rated their skill levels in a series of work-related activities. Then the alumni who rated their skill levels also rated how well the education they received at Evergreen prepared them in each area. The following table provides the frequencies of the alumni responses about their work-related skills. The most common rating category for each work-related skill is presented in bold print for emphasis.

Work-Related Skills	Your level of skill					Preparation from your Evergreen education		
	1= Poor	2= Fair	3= Good	4= Excellent	N/A	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Organize and conduct work effectively (N=26)	0%	3.8%	30.8%	65.4%	0%	4.2%	50.0%	45.8%
Work in a culturally diverse environment (N=27)	0%	7.4%	18.5%	70.4%	3.7%	0%	16.7%	83.3%
Effective communication skills (N=27)	3.7%	0%	48.1%	48.1%	0%	0%	20.0%	80.0%
Creative thinking skills (N=26)	0%	0%	46.2%	53.8%	0%	0%	29.2%	70.8%
Decision-making ability (N=27)	0%	0%	55.6%	44.4%	0%	0%	41.7%	58.3%
Independence and initiative (N=27)	0%	0%	33.3%	66.7%	0%	4.0%	36.0%	60.0%
Leadership (N=27)	3.7%	3.7%	44.4%	48.1%	0%	0%	24.0%	76.0%
Negotiating skills (N=27)	0%	7.4%	55.6%	37.0%	0%	0%	52.0%	48.0%
Research skills (N=26)	0%	11.5%	46.2%	42.3%	0%	0%	29.2%	70.8%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills (N=27)	0%	3.7%	33.3%	63.0%	0%	4.0%	36.0%	60.0%

Note: The number provided by each item reflects the number of alumni who rated their initial skill level; the number varies for some skill areas, since some alumni skipped questions.

Satisfaction with Evergreen Experiences

Alumni rated their level of satisfaction with a series of Evergreen educational experiences. They rated their satisfaction on a four-point scale from 1=*very dissatisfied* to 4=*very satisfied*. They also had the option of indicating if an educational experience did not apply to them.

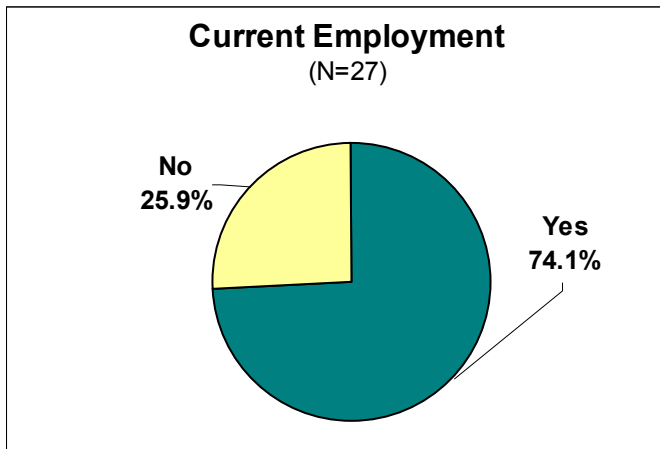
Educational Experiences at Evergreen	% Participated	1= Very Dissatisfied	2= Somewhat dissatisfied	3= Somewhat satisfied	4= Very satisfied	Missing N
Evergreen’s interdisciplinary approach to education	100%	0%	0%	18.5%	81.5%	0
Narrative evaluations written by faculty	100%	0%	7.4%	11.1%	81.5%	0
The quality of instruction	100%	0%	3.7%	22.2%	74.1%	0
Quality of learning interaction with other students, for example, in seminars	100%	0%	0%	33.3%	66.7%	0
The education you were able to construct as an Evergreen student	100%	0%	0%	22.2%	77.8%	0
Tolerance and respect shown for different or opposing viewpoints	100%	0%	3.7%	29.6%	66.7%	0
Academic advice from faculty	100%	0%	3.7%	33.3%	63.0%	0
Opportunities for advanced undergraduate work at Evergreen	93%	4.0%	20.0%	36.0%	40.0%	0
Self-evaluation process	100%	0%	3.7%	37.0%	59.3%	0

The following table shows how many students participated in special learning opportunities while at Evergreen. Alumni who participated then rated their satisfaction with the experience. For alumni who had participated in these learning opportunities, *very satisfied* was the most common response category.

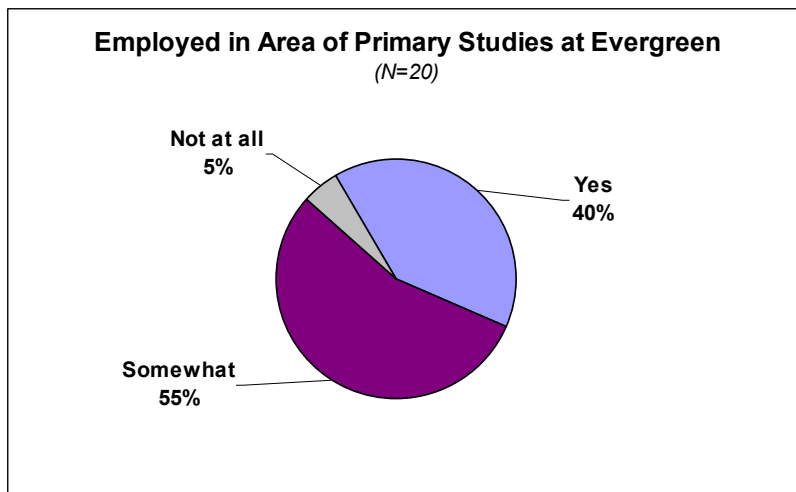
Educational Experiences at Evergreen	% Participated	1= Very Dissatisfied	2= Somewhat dissatisfied	3= Somewhat satisfied	4= Very satisfied	Missing N
Contracts and other individual work with faculty	61.5%	6.3%	0%	37.5%	56.3%	1
Community service or volunteer work	65.4%	0%	0%	47.1%	52.9%	1
Culminating senior experience (capstone, thesis, or senior summative self-evaluation)	80.8%	0%	4.8%	33.3%	61.9%	1
Internships	23.1%	0%	0%	33.3%	66.7%	1
Study abroad	3.8%	0%	0%	0%	100%	1

For students who participated in each activity, the most common response was that they were *very satisfied*. “Study abroad” was the most satisfying experience for those who participated, but only one alum participated in this activity. Evergreen’s “interdisciplinary approach to education” and “narrative evaluation by the faculty” were the highest in satisfaction of the common Evergreen experiences. 24% of alumni were dissatisfied with “Opportunities for advanced undergraduate work at Evergreen”.

F. Alumni Employment Data



74.1% of the Tacoma program alumni reported that they were currently employed one year after graduation from Evergreen compared to 84% of all alumni respondents.

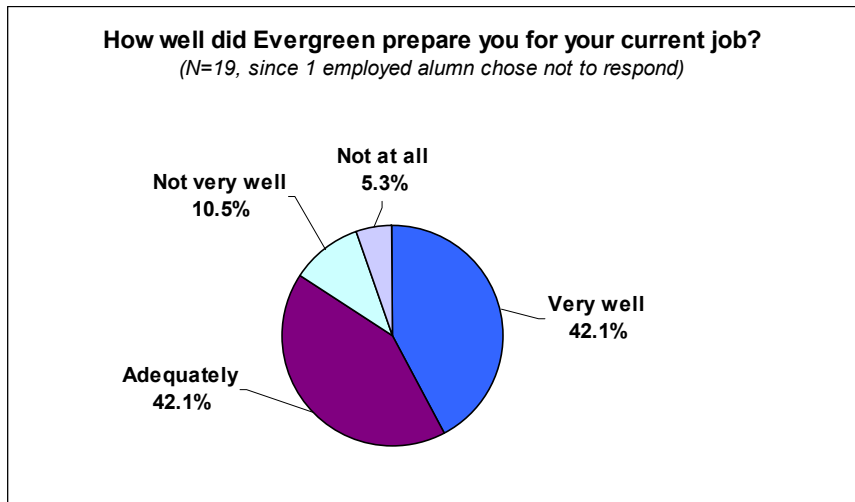


Of the employed Tacoma alumni, 95% were employed in an area that was at least somewhat related to their area of primary study at Evergreen.

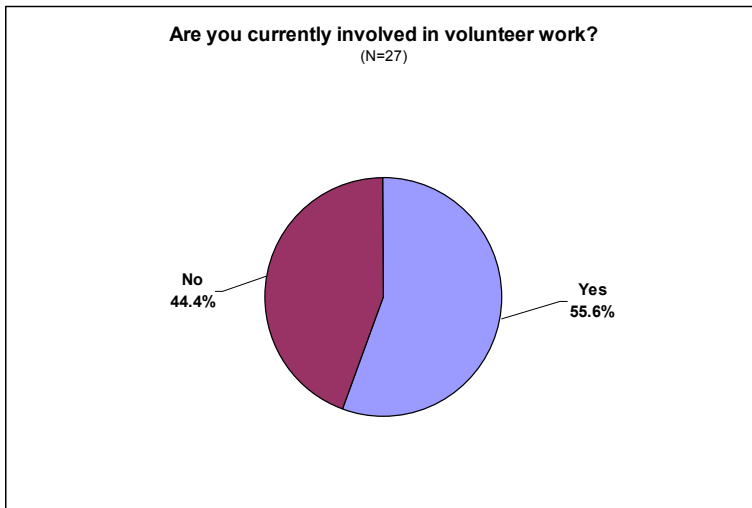
Employed alumni selected one category from the list below that they felt best described the type of work they were doing one year after graduation.

Type of Employment Category	N=20 employed alumni
Business Management	10.0%
Health Care Practitioner	10.0%
Community and Social Service	35.0%
Office/Administrative Support	5.0%
Sales	5.0%
Education/Library	25.0%
Business Operations	5.0%
Legal Occupations	5.0%

84.2% of the alumni felt that their Evergreen experiences prepared them *adequately* or *very well* for their current employment.



Volunteerism



55.6% of the Tacoma alumni were involved in volunteer activities one year after graduation compared to 34% of all alumni respondents

G. Graduate or Professional School

46.2% of Tacoma alumni applied to graduate/professional school within one year. Of the 12 alumni who applied 8 had been offered admission (66.7%) and 2 applications are still pending. Two have been denied thus far.

Of the 27 Tacoma alumni, 8 attended or are currently attending graduate or professional school within one year of graduating from Evergreen. All the 8 alumni were continuing their work in Washington. One had enrolled graduate studies at Evergreen in this timeframe. This rate of 30.8% of alumni going directly to graduate school within one year is higher than the 21% of all Evergreen alumni respondents who entered graduate school within one year of graduation.

Field of graduate study	Number	%
Family and Consumer Science	1	12.5
Architecture and Planning	1	12.5
Public Administration	1	12.5
Social Science	1	12.5
Social Service Professions	2	25.0
Business, management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	2	25.0