

The Evergreen State College Evergreen New Student Survey 2005

How important are the following goals for you in earning your college degree?

New students were asked to indicate how important a series of goals were in earning a college degree. The tables below show the series of questions sorted from the highest to the lowest mean (or average) response for first-time, first-year students and transfer students. At least 90% of first-time, first-year and transfer students said that achieving personal success or satisfaction, personal growth and development, and developing creative and effective communication skills were "important" or "very important" to them in earning their college degrees.

First time, First-year Students (N=417)

How important are the following goals for you in earning your college degree?

| <i>Goals Listed from Highest to Lowest Means Scale: 0=Not Important, 1=Slightly Important, 2=Important, 3=Very Important</i> | Mean | Not Important (0) | Slightly Important (1) | Important (2) | Very Important (3) | Missing |
|--|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| Achieving personal success or satisfaction | 2.83 | 0.0% | 2.4% | 12.1% | 85.4% | 5 |
| Personal growth and development | 2.81 | 0.2% | 1.2% | 15.6% | 83.0% | 6 |
| Developing creative and effective communication skills (e.g. speaking and writing) | 2.57 | 0.5% | 6.3% | 28.6% | 64.6% | 5 |
| Becoming an informed citizen | 2.52 | 2.2% | 6.6% | 28.4% | 62.9% | 5 |
| Gaining an understanding of a broad range of ideas and fields of study | 2.46 | 0.2% | 6.1% | 41.2% | 52.4% | 7 |
| Getting a job of your choice or making a career change | 2.40 | 2.2% | 10.5% | 32.1% | 55.2% | 6 |
| Having a better understanding and appreciation for differences (ethnic, political, etc.) | 2.40 | 1.7% | 8.7% | 37.4% | 52.2% | 5 |
| Having expertise in a particular field | 2.33 | 1.0% | 9.5% | 44.6% | 44.9% | 7 |
| Being prepared for further education (graduate, professional, or doctoral) | 2.22 | 2.9% | 19.2% | 30.7% | 47.2% | 6 |
| Helping others or contributing to the community | 2.20 | 3.4% | 17.4% | 35.2% | 44.0% | 8 |
| Developing artistic abilities using one or more media (e.g. sculpture, painting, film, video, photography) | 2.09 | 6.6% | 22.9% | 25.5% | 45.0% | 6 |
| Improving and protecting the environment | 2.03 | 3.6% | 26.3% | 33.8% | 36.3% | 6 |
| Having a professional career | 1.97 | 7.6% | 22.4% | 35.6% | 34.4% | 7 |
| Influencing or changing the political system | 1.74 | 10.5% | 30.9% | 32.6% | 26.0% | 9 |
| Having the ability to apply scientific principles and methods | 1.56 | 13.8% | 33.5% | 35.9% | 16.7% | 5 |
| Having computer technology skills | 1.54 | 14.2% | 35.0% | 33.3% | 17.6% | 8 |
| Making more money | 1.39 | 17.7% | 38.3% | 31.3% | 12.6% | 5 |

| (Continued) First time, First-year Students (N=417) How important are the following goals for you in earning your college degree? Goals Listed from Highest to Lowest Means Scale: 0=Not Important, 1=Slightly Important, 2=Important, 3=Very Important | Mean | Not Important (0) | Slightly Important (1) | Important (2) | Very Important (3) | Missing |
|--|------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| Having the ability to use quantitative reasoning (e.g. statistics, mathematics, etc.) | 1.37 | 16.3% | 43.2% | 27.3% | 13.2% | 7 |
| Meeting the expectations of family and friends | 1.07 | 31.5% | 38.3% | 22.0% | 8.3% | 7 |
| Starting or improving a business | 1.04 | 35.9% | 33.7% | 20.7% | 9.8% | 7 |