

Greeners at Work, 1999
Alumni Survey Results
 Total Respondents: 305

Student interviewers completed telephone surveys about work-related skills with 305 Evergreen alumni from the class of 1996. With the exception of math skills and numeracy, Evergreen alumni rated their level of skill in all areas between 3 (good) and 4 (excellent). The top three rated skills were the ability to work in a culturally diverse environment (3.72), independence and initiative (3.68), and willingness and aptitude to learn new skills. Math skills were rated lowest (2.71). In terms of the preparation their Evergreen education had given them, alumni gave the highest ratings to the ability to critically analyze information (66.6% reported "a great deal"), willingness and aptitude to learn new skills (63.6%), and independence and initiative (62.9%). Lowest ratings were given to math skills (43.0% reported "not at all"), and computer literacy (23.0% reported "not at all.")

	Your level of skill (1= Poor, 4 = Excellent)		How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	N	Mean	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Work in a culturally diverse environment	303	3.72	13.0%	34.7%	52.3%
Independence and initiative	305	3.68	7.6%	29.5%	62.9%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	305	3.60	3.6%	32.8%	63.6%
Work cooperatively in team effort	304	3.57	4.3%	34.2%	61.5%
Critically analyze information	302	3.50	2.6%	30.8%	66.6%
Research skills	303	3.39	2.0%	38.1%	59.9%
Speak clearly and effectively	305	3.39	3.3%	45.1%	51.6%
Creative thinking skills	302	3.38	3.0%	38.1%	58.9%
Written communication	305	3.38	5.3%	38.6%	56.1%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	304	3.33	4.7%	52.8%	42.5%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	305	3.28	14.2%	50.2%	35.6%
Decision-making ability	303	3.27	8.0%	58.5%	33.4%
Leadership	303	3.23	14.3%	49.8%	35.9%
Negotiating skills	295	3.21	10.2%	54.9%	34.9%
Give presentations	293	3.20	6.8%	47.5%	45.8%
Computer literacy	301	3.00	23.0%	51.1%	25.9%
Math skills/numeracy	288	2.71	43.0%	38.7%	18.3%

Information on alumni planning groups was obtained from student records, based on the type of programs students had been enrolled in, especially during their last year at Evergreen. In some cases, assignment to a planning group could not be made (for example, when alumni had been enrolled only in Part-Time programs or modules.)

Planning Groups	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Culture Text Language	71	23.2
Environmental Studies	56	18.3
Expressive Arts	40	13.1
Scientific Inquiry	33	10.8
Social Science	<u>70</u>	<u>22.9</u>
Subtotal	270	88.3
Tacoma program	14	4.6
Tribal program	7	2.3
Not applicable (e.g., part-time, only)	15	4.9
Total	306	100.0

Comparisons between Planning Groups

The tables on this page show alumni ratings of work-related skills by Planning Group. Significant differences are indicated by an asterisk (*) and by bold type. Differences in level and amount of learning in math and computer skills are highlighted in the graphs on page 3. Tables for each Planning Group are listed on pages 4-7.

Level of skill (1= Poor, 4 = Excellent)

	Overall Mean	CTL	Expressive Arts	Social Science	Environ. Studies	Scientific Inquiry
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.71	3.70	3.67	3.80	3.70	3.63
Independence and initiative	3.68	3.72	3.50	3.70	3.73	3.66
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.62	3.55	3.53	3.71	3.59	3.75
Work cooperatively in team effort *	3.57	3.36	3.52	3.61	3.67	3.79
Critically analyze information	3.50	3.49	3.37	3.54	3.50	3.61
Research skills ¹	3.40	3.49	3.13	3.37	3.50	3.41
Creative thinking skills *	3.40	3.49	3.65	3.31	3.25	3.32
Written communication	3.39	3.41	3.18	3.41	3.48	3.37
Speak clearly and effectively	3.38	3.42	3.40	3.44	3.30	3.25
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.33	3.32	3.28	3.40	3.25	3.39
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.26	3.17	3.15	3.37	3.37	3.19
Decision-making ability	3.24	3.19	3.08	3.36	3.25	3.31
Leadership	3.21	3.16	3.10	3.34	3.11	3.34
Negotiating skills	3.21	3.16	3.18	3.29	3.22	3.13
Give presentations	3.19	3.19	3.11	3.28	3.04	3.37
Computer literacy *	3.00	2.88	2.75	2.88	3.23	3.42
Math skills/numeracy *	2.71	2.42	2.42	2.61	2.91	3.45

* Differences between Planning Groups are statistically significant.

¹ Differences between Planning Groups are marginally significant (p = .053)

How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?

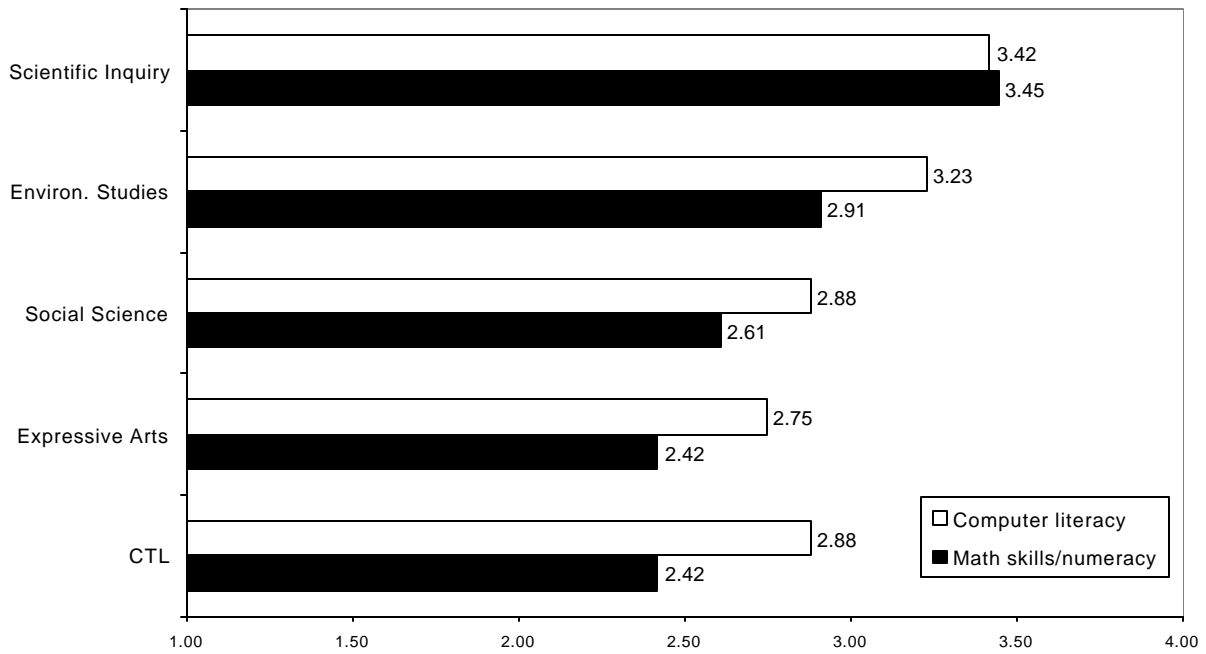
(1 = Not at all, 3 = A great deal)

	Overall Mean	CTL	Expressive Arts	Social Science	Environ. Studies	Scientific Inquiry
Critically analyze information *	2.64	2.69	2.55	2.71	2.46	2.81
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	2.60	2.62	2.63	2.66	2.50	2.59
Research skills	2.59	2.63	2.36	2.61	2.66	2.61
Work cooperatively in team effort	2.58	2.50	2.65	2.56	2.65	2.58
Creative thinking skills *	2.57	2.69	2.70	2.45	2.40	2.68
Independence and initiative	2.56	2.72	2.65	2.51	2.43	2.47
Written communication *	2.51	2.59	2.25	2.61	2.48	2.53
Speak clearly and effectively	2.50	2.55	2.33	2.56	2.46	2.53
Recognize problems, devise solutions *	2.39	2.39	2.28	2.50	2.25	2.56
Give presentations	2.39	2.48	2.29	2.49	2.20	2.43
Work in a culturally diverse environment ¹	2.38	2.36	2.21	2.57	2.24	2.44
Decision-making ability	2.24	2.31	2.15	2.35	2.13	2.19
Negotiating skills	2.24	2.29	2.05	2.38	2.18	2.16
Leadership	2.20	2.29	2.10	2.20	2.05	2.39
Organize and tackle work efficiently	2.19	2.25	2.08	2.29	2.09	2.13
Computer literacy *	2.04	1.86	1.78	2.05	2.13	2.50
Math skills/numeracy *	1.74	1.37	1.26	1.57	2.12	2.50

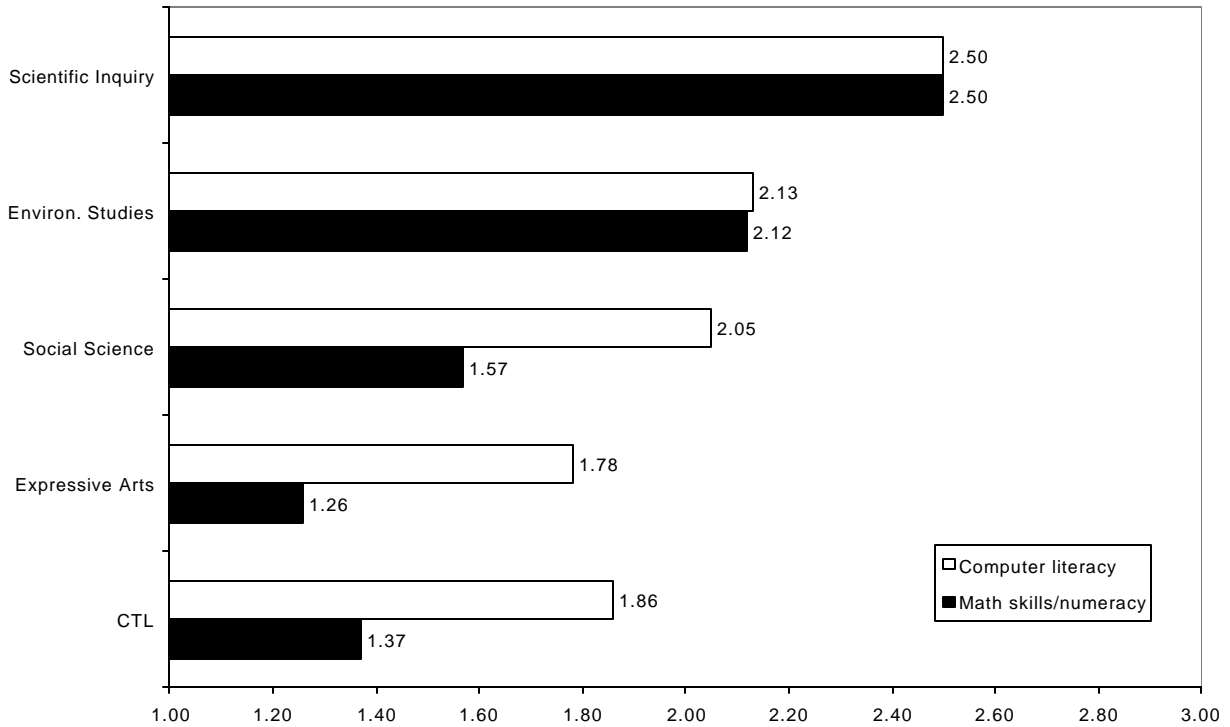
* Differences between Planning Groups are statistically significant.

¹ Differences between Planning Groups are marginally significant (p = .055)

**Alumni Ratings of their Math Skills and Computer Literacy
by Planning Group
(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)**



**Math and Computer Skills:
Amount Learned at Evergreen by Planning Group
(1=Not at all, 3=A great deal)**



Greeners at Work, 1999
Alumni Survey Results By Planning Group

Culture Text Language (n = 71)

	Your level of skill	How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Independence and initiative	3.72	2.8%	22.5%	74.6%
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.70	17.1%	37.3%	55.2%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.55	4.2%	29.6%	66.2%
Creative thinking skills	3.49	1.4%	28.2%	70.4%
Research skills	3.49	2.8%	31.0%	66.2%
Critically analyze information	3.49	2.9%	25.7%	71.4%
Speak clearly and effectively	3.42	4.2%	36.6%	59.2%
Written communication	3.41	5.6%	29.6%	64.8%
Work cooperatively in team effort	3.36	4.3%	41.4%	54.3%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.32	4.3%	52.2%	43.5%
Decision-making ability	3.19	4.4%	60.3%	35.3%
Give presentations	3.19	7.5%	37.3%	55.2%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.17	12.7%	49.3%	38.0%
Negotiating skills	3.16	9.1%	53.0%	37.9%
Leadership	3.16	13.2%	44.1%	42.6%
Computer literacy	2.88	25.4%	63.5%	11.1%
Math skills/numeracy	2.42	66.7%	29.4%	3.9%

Environmental Studies (n=56)

	Your level of skill	How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Independence and initiative	3.73	9.3%	38.9%	51.9%
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.70	14.8%	46.3%	38.9%
Work cooperatively in team effort	3.67	3.6%	27.3%	69.1%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.59	3.6%	42.9%	53.6%
Research skills	3.50	1.8%	30.4%	67.9%
Critically analyze information	3.50	3.6%	46.4%	50.0%
Written communication	3.48	3.6%	44.6%	51.8%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.37	17.9%	55.4%	26.8%
Speak clearly and effectively	3.30	3.6%	46.4%	50.0%
Creative thinking skills	3.25	1.8%	56.4%	41.8%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.25	7.1%	60.7%	32.1%
Decision-making ability	3.25	7.3%	72.7%	20.0%
Computer literacy	3.23	13.5%	59.6%	26.9%
Negotiating skills	3.22	12.7%	56.4%	30.9%
Leadership	3.11	21.4%	51.8%	26.8%
Give presentations	3.04	11.1%	57.4%	31.5%
Math skills/numeracy	2.91	16.3%	55.1%	28.6%

Expressive Arts (n=40)

	Your level of skill	How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.67	15.4%	48.7%	35.9%
Creative thinking skills	3.65	2.5%	25.0%	72.5%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.53	0%	37.5%	62.5%
Work cooperatively in team effort	3.53	0%	35.0%	65.0%
Independence and initiative	3.50	5.0%	25.0%	70.0%
Speak clearly and effectively	3.40	2.5%	62.5%	35.0%
Critically analyze information	3.37	2.5%	40.0%	57.5%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.28	2.5%	67.5%	30.0%
Written communication	3.18	7.5%	60.0%	32.5%
Negotiating skills	3.18	7.7%	79.5%	12.8%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.15	17.9%	56.4%	25.6%
Research skills	3.13	0%	64.1%	35.9%
Give presentations	3.11	7.9%	55.3%	36.8%
Leadership	3.10	15.0%	60.0%	25.0%
Decision-making ability	3.08	12.5%	60.0%	27.5%
Computer literacy	2.75	38.9%	44.4%	16.7%
Math skills/numeracy	2.42	77.4%	19.4%	3.2%

Scientific Inquiry (n=33)

	Your level of skill	How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Work cooperatively in team effort	3.79	3.0%	36.4%	60.6%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.75	9.4%	21.9%	68.8%
Independence and initiative	3.66	12.5%	28.1%	59.4%
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.63	12.5%	31.3%	56.3%
Critically analyze information	3.61	3.2%	12.9%	83.9%
Math skills/numeracy	3.45	6.7%	36.7%	56.7%
Computer literacy	3.42	6.3%	37.5%	56.3%
Research skills	3.41	3.2%	32.3%	64.5%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.39	3.1%	37.5%	59.4%
Give presentations	3.37	6.7%	43.3%	50.0%
Written communication	3.37	9.4%	28.1%	62.5%
Leadership	3.34	9.7%	41.9%	48.4%
Creative thinking skills	3.32	0%	32.3%	67.7%
Decision-making ability	3.31	12.5%	56.3%	31.3%
Speak clearly and effectively	3.25	0%	46.9%	53.1%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.19	21.9%	43.8%	34.4%
Negotiating skills	3.13	16.1%	51.6%	32.3%

Social Science (n=69)

	Your level of skill	How well did TESC prepare you in these areas?		
	(1=Poor, 4=Excellent)	Not at all	To some extent	A great deal
Work in a culturally diverse environment	3.80	10.1%	23.2%	66.7%
Willingness and aptitude to learn new skills	3.71	1.4%	31.9%	66.7%
Independence and initiative	3.70	10.3%	29.4%	60.3%
Work cooperatively in team effort	3.61	7.1%	30.0%	62.9%
Critically analyze information	3.54	1.4%	25.7%	72.9%
Speak clearly and effectively	3.44	1.4%	42.0%	56.5%
Written communication	3.41	4.3%	30.4%	65.2%
Recognize problems, devise effective solutions	3.40	4.4%	41.2%	54.4%
Research skills	3.37	1.4%	35.7%	62.9%
Decision-making ability	3.37	8.8%	47.1%	44.1%
Organize and tackle work efficiently	3.36	11.4%	48.6%	40.0%
Leadership	3.34	14.3%	51.4%	34.3%
Creative thinking skills	3.31	5.8%	43.5%	50.7%
Negotiating skills	3.29	10.1%	42.0%	47.8%
Give presentations	3.28	4.3%	42.9%	52.9%
Computer literacy	2.88	23.3%	48.3%	28.3%
Math skills/numeracy	2.61	55.3%	31.9%	12.8%

Conclusions

The self-rated strengths and weaknesses of alumni from the various Planning Groups appears to reflect the emphasis of each curricular area. For example, alumni from Scientific Inquiry and Environmental Studies had the highest ratings in math and computer skills compared to alumni from other Planning Groups. Similarly, alumni from Social Science and Culture Text Language reported the higher levels of preparation in written communication, and alumni from the Expressive Arts reported high levels of achievement and preparation in creative thinking skills and independence and initiative.

The results of this survey, as well as the survey of employers and graduate faculty of Evergreen Alumni, conducted concurrently should be useful in providing Planning Groups and other members of the Evergreen community with direct feedback from alumni and their supervisors on how well the college is preparing its students for the workplace, and where improvements and enhancements could or should be made.