

Summary on Recent Enrollment Trends and Estimated Growth Due to State Population Increases
September 2004
Prepared for the Enrollment Growth DTF
Steve Hunter

This paper outlines (I) sources of recent enrollment growth at Evergreen, (II) composition of the entering class, (III) major changes in make-up of our enrollment and (IV) an estimate of the effect growth in the state population through 2015 will have on Evergreen's enrollment as a context for shaping a growth plan to 5000 FTE by 2015.

To place growth to 5,000, or an addition of approximately 900 FTE over current actual FTE in a longer perspective, the College has grown 1,830 FTE (81%) in the past 20 years for an average of about 90 FTE per year. Applying the same rate of growth during the next 10 years will bring us to 5,000. The challenge is shaping that growth in ways that are consistent with the core values of the college and produce a solvent budget.

I. Recent enrollment growth

- During the past five years, the majority of enrollment growth has occurred in three areas: (1) full-time, Olympia campus programs; (2) Off-campus expansion (Tacoma and Tribal); and (3) allowing students to carry up to 20 credits.
- Enrollment in Part-time (Evening/Weekend) Programs and Graduate programs has been static over the past five years.

II. Composition of the undergraduate entering class

- Evergreen's entering class is about two-thirds Transfer students (903 students Fall 2003) and one-third High School students (460 students in Fall 2003). We are the most transfer-dependent public baccalaureate college in the state. Comparative proportions of entering Transfers in the Fall 2003 entering class include: UW – 27%; WWU – 40%; EWU – 51%; TESC – 66%. Washington Community College transfers are, by far, the largest component of our entering class (517 students in Fall 2003).
- Evergreen attracts a higher proportion of undergraduates from outside the state of Washington than the other public baccalaureates. Between 40-50% of our entering freshmen and 20% of entering transfers are drawn from other states.

III. Changes in the make-up of Evergreen's entering class/enrollment

- In the past five years, Evergreen's enrollment of Washington community college students has remained stable, enrollment of Washington high school students has increased slightly and enrollment of students from outside the state has declined for both freshmen and transfers.

- As a result of successive declines in enrollment of entering nonresident students, total nonresident fee-paying enrollment has dropped about 100 students in the past five years from 25% of our total enrollment to 21%. This decline translates to a drop of approximately \$1,000,000 in tuition revenue.
- The decline in nonresident tuition revenue has been offset in recent years by gradually shifting our budget away from dependence on 25% nonresident enrollment and over-enrollment¹ of Washington Community College transfer students. Because of the differential in resident/nonresident tuition it requires about four resident undergraduate students to offset the revenue decline from losing one undergraduate nonresident.

IV. Estimated effect of state population growth on Evergreen's enrollment

- Growth estimates produced by applying current participation rates (market share) by age cohort to Washington state population forecasts through 2015 result in an increase of approximately 300 AA FTE, bringing the college to 4400 FTE. (Note: This estimate assumes no growth in nonresident undergraduates or in graduate programs.)
- The remaining growth (600 FTE) will require an increase in market share by adding new programs and revising/expanding current programs to attract students currently choosing to enroll elsewhere.

¹Over-enrollment is produced by taking in more students than the State funds. For example, in 2003-04, Evergreen received funding for 3,871 full-time equivalent (FTE) students and we enrolled 4,100 FTE students—229 FTE above budget.

Enrollment History and Growth Forecast

**Note: Growth assumed for undergraduate state residents only;
No growth assumed for nonresident undergraduates or graduate programs**



