

The Evergreen State College  
Evergreen Student Experience Survey 2008  
Responses of First-Time, First-Year Students

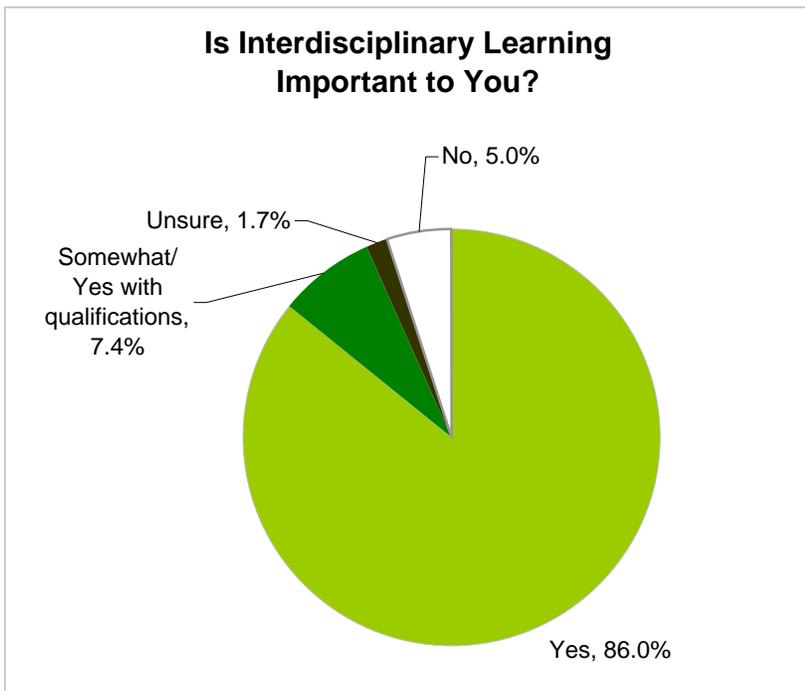
**Importance of interdisciplinary learning**

Students were asked to indicate whether interdisciplinary learning was important to them and to elaborate why it was or was not important.

*Is interdisciplinary learning important to you?*

*(N=121, 15 skipped question, 4 unable to be coded)*

Yes	104	86.0%
Somewhat/Yes with qualifications	9	7.4%
Unsure	2	1.7%
No	6	5.0%



## Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

Categories in which student responses fell are arranged in descending order by percent of total\*

	Yes N=104	Somewhat/Yes with Qualifications N=9	Unsure N=2	No N=6	% of Total N=121
Helps synthesize information and ideas	31.7%	11.1%			28.1%
Real world relevance	27.9%				24.0%
Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding	14.4%				12.4%
Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests	10.6%				9.1%
Take ownership/ active role in learning process/ I care more/ have more invested in what I am learning	7.7%				6.6%
If properly implemented	1.9%	66.7%			6.6%
Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus	1.9%	44.4%	50.0%	16.7%	6.6%
Well Rounded Education	6.7%				5.8%
Gives context to what I am learning	5.8%				5.0%
Learning from many perspectives	4.8%				4.1%
Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus	4.8%				4.1%
One of the reasons I attended Evergreen	4.8%				4.1%
Allows me to choose what I want to learn	3.8%				3.3%
Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment	2.9%		50.0%		3.3%
You can get stuck taking things you don't want to	1.0%	11.1%		33.3%	3.3%

\*Percentages do not add up to 100% because student responses often fit in more than one category.

Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not? (cont'd)

	Yes N=104	Somewhat/Yes with Qualifications N=9	Unsure N=2	No N=6	% of Total N=121
Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills	1.9%		50.0%		2.5%
Develops interpersonal skills	2.9%				2.5%
Traditional classes are good too		11.1%		33.3%	2.5%
Broad range of experiences/ good general education	1.9%				1.7%
Good alternative to traditional teaching methods	1.9%				1.7%
Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives	1.9%				1.7%
Gives you adaptability/flexibility	1.9%				1.7%
Stimulating, engaging	1.0%		50.0%		1.7%
Need more 4 and 8 cr classes, need more half time programs/FT programs limit options, flexibility				33.3%	1.7%
Relationship with instructors	1.9%				1.7%
Limited selection of programs		11.1%			0.8%
Innovative	1.0%				0.8%
Interdisciplinary format is a hindrance for future learning endeavors			50.0%		0.8%
Don't know what it is/ Unclear on what interdisciplinary learning is				16.7%	0.8%
Yes/No/Maybe/Unsure, general	9.6%				8.3%
Can't code response	3.8%	11.1%			4.1%

\*Percentages do not add up to 100% because student responses often fit in more than one category.

## Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

### Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Yes'

#### Yes, general (N=10)

Very important, I don't need to explain myself, it explains itself.

Yes (5)

sure

yes! (2)

yes I don;t really feel liek going into it though

#### Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (N=33)

very much - the real world and its problems are all interconnected

Yes, extremely. In middle and high school, I was always the one to bug the teacher about real-world application. I couldn't stand feeling like I was memorizing information to pass a test. A sense of connectedness with the material makes an objectively heavy workload manageable or even enjoyable; when I don't care about the narrow topic at hand, I don't care about the work related to it. My fall/winter program delivered the former. Now that I'm feeling less connected to the mountain of work we have, I've fallen back into the old game of figuring out how to give the teacher what he wants, rather than figuring out how to learn. That's why I marked "too heavy" for the workload.

Yes. I am paying 25,000 dollars out of state tuition so that I can learn this way. It's important to integrate subject matter to get an overalll experience. It makes school applicable to everyday experiences.

Absolutely. Nothing in this world actually fits into little boxes. Viewing the world with the knowledge that all our organization of information is human-made is an important skill and Evergreen teaches that through interdisciplinary learning far better than a school with divided subjects ever could.

Very important. I like to understand why something is important from many different perspectives. I believe interdisciplinary learning helps students see how everything is connected somehow and that bridging the gap between different ways of seeing things can be made more possible with this learning style.

It is very important. It allows me to see the connections between subjects that I probably would not have made otherwise. When I attended Washington State University in the summer of 2007 I had a great experience. But then I came to Evergreen and saw the weaknesses of how traditional schools, like WSU, teach in separate classes. Evergreen, on the other hand, teaches every subject at once and allows you to understand how things work together a lot more clearly.

Yes, because it shows how all of the subjects are really connected to one another. It is much better then learning seperately about math and history. Interdisiplinary learning is much more like real life as well.

Yes, I enjoy spending time and creating relationship with teachers and students. I enjoy learning several topics that are related to eachother, it just makes more sense.

yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

Incredibly. The mind naturally works to connect concepts we associate in one area to many other areas. This is supports the very nature of our brain function and thus provides greater opportunities for learning.

Interdisciplinary learning is essential for my own experience at Evergreen. I feel that without the integrated scopes of focus on a myriad of topics, that my learning experience would be very empty and vague. I fully appreciate the collaborative atmosphere here, in which students and teachers all retain and are able to relate their varying interests, strengths, and weaknesses in a very concrete and fulfilling way.

It's quite important, because it teaches us how to expand our brains around other subjects concerning the main subject, though it is very hard to do!

Yes because it is important to learn about a subject in respect to a larger picture as a connection with other things.

Yes, I really enjoy learning more than just one thing and relating everything back to my core.

Yes, I like being able to study a range of topics and see the connections between them.

Yes, I like to be exposed to various areas of studies so that I can learn in a way that will allow me to see the connections between many different subject.

Yes it is very important because too often fields are treated like they are completely self contained and exert no influence on one another

Yes, because it draws several fields of interest together for me and thus I learn more.

yes, whole systems thinking is a must

Yes; it brings much more focus to education plus provides a vehicle that connects all the different aspects of what we have learned together.

### Helps Synthesize Information and Ideas (cont'd)

interdisciplinary is important to because I am interested in many things and it is fun to see how my different interests are connected and be able to study them together.

Definitely; interdisciplinary learning illustrates the connectivity of subjects far better than traditional learning. Aside from that, I've learned about a lot of interesting things from disciplines I probably wouldn't have taken a course in at a traditional institution.

It is important to me because I feel that it is necessary to see how different fields interact with one another, especially in a field like psychology where many other fields may come into play when discussing various psychological problems.

yes, i can make better connections and be more focused on what i am interested in

Yes because nothing is mutually exclusive.

I didn't think it was until I got here. I think it's really important to approach education -- at least for me -- the way Evergreen does. I love programs and am really excited to do a contract in the summer. Making connections is important in learning rather than simply memorizing and regurgitating.

Yes, especially in the program format. I feel like I'm able to learn a lot of things I wouldn't be able to at a conventional college and I also get a better understanding of how different fields relate.

yes because the programs are structures to coordinate a variety of classes under one central focus, so it all is relevant and applicable

Yes I think the connection between ideas make the ideas more relevant and engaging than if the subjects stand separately and it also encourages students and teachers to become more well rounded people as often you must participate in a subject you normally wouldn't have explored.

Yes, it's important to see how different separate subjects can integrate with each other, as they do in jobs or other practical (outside academia) matters. On another note, I decided to take mostly courses this quarter due to the LACK of focus on any particular subject within my program; I found although we would circle ideas and actual how-to of writing, we never actually delved into writing itself as a subject matter, or any specific topic for that matter.

Yes. Bridges learning into a cohesive whole

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning helps to effectively integrate the things I learn in college into my real-life career choices in the future.

Yes! Everything in life is connected. A broad understanding of many different subject areas allows a person to be more dynamic and creative in their life.

### Real world relevance (N=29)

Absolutely. Nothing in this world actually fits into little boxes. Viewing the world with the knowledge that all our organization of information is human-made is an important skill and Evergreen teaches that through interdisciplinary learning far better than a school with divided subjects ever could.

It is. It makes sure people are learning practical things that give them experience for the future instead of them completing assignments that don't teach them anything just so they can get a bit of text on their resume so they can get a job working in a dark office the rest of their lives.

Very much so. It creates a broader, more useful knowledge base to use in the real world.

interdisciplinary learning is the reason that i am at evergreen. students don't realize that life IS interdisciplinary, and most graduates don't know how to apply what they learn to anything else.

Yes, because it shows how all of the subjects are really connected to one another. It is much better than learning separately about math and history. Interdisciplinary learning is much more like real life as well.

Yes, extremely. In middle and high school, I was always the one to bug the teacher about real-world application. I couldn't stand feeling like I was memorizing information to pass a test. A sense of connectedness with the material makes an objectively heavy workload manageable or even enjoyable; when I don't care about the narrow topic at hand, I don't care about the work related to it. My fall/winter program delivered the former. Now that I'm feeling less connected to the mountain of work we have, I've fallen back into the old game of figuring out how to give the teacher what he wants, rather than figuring out how to learn. That's why I marked "too heavy" for the workload.

Because that's the way life is.

Yes, it generally answers the question why am I doing this and makes things fit into the world more realistically.

yes: activities we do in the world, jobs we have, and the way we interact with people are all interdisciplinary. you cannot act on one study area in the world as you can in the classroom. i therefore think it's very important to learn in an interdisciplinary way as well so that you can more easily apply your learning to the world.

Yes, because the world doesn't work in segments. My goal is to work for an international aid organization and to do so I will need to be able to work cooperatively with people from other fields and disciplines and understand where our experiences intersect. Interdisciplinary learning prepares me to look at an issue or problem from a multitude of different angles, something I feel will be very useful to me in the future.

yes because the programs are structures to coordinate a variety of classes under one central focus, so it all is relevant and applicable

### Real world relevance (cont'd)

Yes, interdisciplinary learning seems to be the most logical way to learn. It enables the student to relate what is in the classroom to what we find outside the class room.

It teaches me how to alternate my behavior and position in a class, especially when I am with peers of very different/divergent views. It encourages me to see connection in the world I live in that I wouldn't normally.

Yes. It allows me to receive a more thorough education of my chosen field. I don't have to waste time or money learning about something that will have nothing to do with my job.

Yes, for me it is a more realistic way of learning.

yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

Yes, it makes learning more accessible, meaningful and applicable.

Yes because by combining subjects into themes I feel as though the material is much more applicable to everyday life.

Because it makes what you are doing real and relateable.

Yes. It helps me to feel more connected to the school environment while also keeping me from losing interest in the material at hand, which used to be a problem for me in high school when I often couldn't "see what this has to do with anything."

Yes! It makes sense to not separate learning from life in the education system.

Absolutely: that is the reason I am here. It isn't just an education; interdisciplinary learning shows you how to apply your education to a life you are genuinely interested in leading.

very much - the real world and its problems are all interconnected

Yes. I feel that interdisciplinary learning helps to effectively integrate the things I learn in college into my real-life career choices in the future.

Yes. I learn better and with more clarity in an environment where relevance is emphasized by the program in order to apply what I learn to life.

Yes. I am paying 25,000 dollars out of state tuition so that I can learn this way. It's important to integrate subject matter to get an overall experience. It makes school applicable to everyday experiences.

It's important because without it people are too focused and specialized, what they learn lacks adequate context in the world.

Incredibly. The mind naturally works to connect concepts we associate in one area to many other areas. This supports the very nature of our brain function and thus provides greater opportunities for learning.

Yes. The study of business and economics at most schools does not help you transfer that education into the real world. The programs at Evergreen work to build foundations relating that book work to the real world in seminar and outside projects.

### Effective way of learning/ Facilitates learning and understanding (N=15)

Yes, I believe it is a less stressful and more efficient schooling process for me.

Yes. I feel it is one of the most beneficial ways of learning.

Yes because it helps me learn more about what I am trying to learn

Yes, because it draws several fields of interest together for me and thus I learn more.

yes, i can make better connections and be more focused on what i am interested in

Yes. Interdisciplinary learning is the best way for me to learn.

yes because it is only practical because most things have to do with other things so studying two things at the same time will help you understand a concept or theory better.

I believe interdisciplinary learning is essential for growth and gaining newfound knowledge. It matures and nurtures one with great wisdom and the desire to achieve and appreciate more in the long run.

Yes, it makes learning more accessible, meaningful and applicable.

Yes. It gives me a more hands-on approach to learning and this makes it easier to learn for me.

Yes because to me learning is a personal process and I am able to learn the way it works for me.

Yes. I learn better and with more clarity in an environment where relevance is emphasized by the program in order to apply what I learn to life.

Incredibly. The mind naturally works to connect concepts we associate in one area to many other areas. This supports the very nature of our brain function and thus provides greater opportunities for learning.

yes because it helps me learn the material.

Yes, it's the way I seem to learn best.

**Variety/Learn lots of new things/Exposed to new areas and interests (N=11)**

I think interdisciplinary learning is good because it causes students to be exposed to subjects they may not otherwise have pursued but the most important thing to me is having the freedom and flexibility to study what I want, how I want.

Definitely; interdisciplinary learning illustrates the connectivity of subjects far better than traditional learning. Aside from that, I've learned about a lot of interesting things from disciplines I probably wouldn't have taken a course in at a traditional institution.

yes because the programs are structures to coordinate a variety of classes under one central focus, so it all is relevant and applicable

Yes, I really enjoy learning more than just one thing and relating everything back to my core.

Yes, I enjoy spending time and creating relationship with teachers and students. I enjoy learning several topics that are related to each other, it just makes more sense.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning broadens perspective and allows your brain to expand and absorb more knowledge.

Yes because I think it's important to learn things that you didn't intend on learning.

Yes, because I like learning more than one subject at once.

Yes, I like to be exposed to various areas of studies so that I can learn in a way that will allow me to see the connections between many different subject.

Yes, I like being able to study a range of topics and see the connections between them.

Yes, especially in the program format. I feel like I'm able to learn a lot of things I wouldn't be able to at a conventional college and I also get a better understanding of how different fields relate.

**Take ownership/ active role in learning process/ I care more/ have more invested in what I am learning (N=8)**

yes because i can learn on my own.

Yes. It helps me to feel more connected to the school environment while also keeping me from losing interest in the material at hand, which used to be a problem for me in high school when I often couldn't "see what this has to do with anything."

Yes, it makes me stay motivated. It's easy to just get an A or B but actually working hard for the perfect evaluation is harder. I love seminar and being able to talk about issues with the class as a whole and hearing other people's opinions.

Yes because to me learning is a personal process and I am able to learn the way it works for me.

It is important, because it makes me feel more valued as an individual student. I feel that I can study what inspires me the most and have my work noticed as education.

Yes, I like the independence at Evergreen

Absolutely, i know feel responsible for my education and the benefits are extraordinary.

Yes because I feel I am responsible for my learning.

**Well Rounded Education (N=7)**

It is very important to me because i think that with interdisciplinary learning you get more knowledge in more fields then you would if traditional learning.

It provides for more well-rounded studies.

Yes it is. I feel like interdisciplinary learning helps with more evolved college education.

Yes I think the connection between ideas make the ideas more relevant and engaging than if the subjects stand separately and it also encourages students and teachers to become more well rounded people as often you must participate in a subject you normally wouldn't have explored.

Yes, interdisciplinay learning is important because it balances education.

Yes, I can get a well rounded education. It's also nice that my teachers can communicate.

Yes, I think it's important to have a well rounded education.

### **Gives Context to What I am Learning (N=7)**

Very much so, it's the only way to avoid learning in a vacuum, which is inaccurate in the extreme.

yes because the programs are structures to coordinate a variety of classes under one central focus, so it all is relevant and applicable

It teaches me how to alternate my behavior and position in a class, especially when I am with peers of very different/divergent views. It encourages me to see connection in the world I live in that I wouldn't normally.

Yes, learning out of context is rather useless.

Yes, because divisions between different subjects sometimes removes meaning and context from what is being taught.

It's important because without it people are too focused and specialized, what they learn lacks adequate context in the world.

Yes. The study of business and economics at most schools does not help you transfer that education into the real world. The programs at Evergreen work to build foundations relating that book work to the real world in seminar and outside projects.

### **Learning from many perspectives (N=5)**

Yes because it allows me to study something from many different angles and in a learning based way.

Very important. I like to understand why something is important from many different perspectives. I believe interdisciplinary learning helps students see how everything is connected somehow and that bridging the gap between different ways of seeing things can be made more possible with this learning style.

Yes, because the world doesn't work in segments. My goal is to work for an international aid organization and to do so I will need to be able to work cooperatively with people from other fields and disciplines and understand where our experiences intersect. Interdisciplinary learning prepares me to look at an issue or problem from a multitude of different angles, something I feel will be very useful to me in the future.

Yes, interdisciplinary learning broadens perspective and allows your brain to expand and absorb more knowledge.

Yes, I think it's important to get a balanced perspective on every topic studied.

### **Allows me to study subjects in greater depth/ with greater focus (N=5)**

Yes; it brings much more focus to education plus provides a vehicle that connects all the different aspects of what we have learned together.

yes, i can make better connections and be more focused on what i am interested in

Yes because it allows me to learn a lot about a single subject.

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

Yes. It allows me to receive a more thorough education of my chosen field. I don't have to waste time or money learning about something that will have nothing to do with my job.

### **One of the reasons I attended Evergreen (N=5)**

interdisciplinary learning is the reason that i am at evergreen. students don't realize that life IS interdisciplinary, and most graduates don't know how to apply what they learn to anything else.

Very important to me. Was the foremost determining factor in attending Evergreen.

It is very important. It is why I came to Evergreen. DON'T CHANGE THAT!

Absolutely: that is the reason I am here. It isn't just an education; interdisciplinary learning shows you how to apply your education to a life you are genuinely interested in leading.

Yes. I am paying 25,000 dollars out of state tuition so that I can learn this way. It's important to integrate subject matter to get an overall experience. It makes school applicable to everyday experiences.

### **Allows me to choose what I want to learn (N=4)**

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

Yes. It allows me to receive a more thorough education of my chosen field. I don't have to waste time or money learning about something that will have nothing to do with my job.

It is important, because it makes me feel more valued as an individual student. I feel that I can study what inspires me the most and have my work noticed as education.

Yes it is, it just more relaxed, and made to fit the individual, instead of structured learning which fits no individual

### **Develops interpersonal skills (N=3)**

Yes, because the world doesn't work in segments. My goal is to work for an international aid organization and to do so I will need to be able to work cooperatively with people from other fields and disciplines and understand where our experiences intersect. Interdisciplinary learning prepares me to look at an issue or problem from a multitude of different angles, something I feel will be very useful to me in the future.

It teaches me how to alternate my behavior and position in a class, especially when I am with peers of very different/divergent views. It encourages me to see connection in the world I live in that I wouldn't normally.

Yes, I enjoy spending time and creating relationship with teachers and students. I enjoy learning several topics that are related to each other, it just makes more sense.

### **Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment (N=3)**

It is very important to me because I think that with interdisciplinary learning you get more knowledge in more fields than you would if traditional learning.

Yes, I enjoy spending time and creating relationship with teachers and students. I enjoy learning several topics that are related to each other, it just makes more sense.

It is very important. It allows me to see the connections between subjects that I probably would not have made otherwise. When I attended [another WA four year school] in the summer of 2007 I had a great experience. But then I came to Evergreen and saw the weaknesses of how traditional schools, like [the school I attended], teach in separate classes. Evergreen, on the other hand, teaches every subject at once and allows you to understand how things work together a lot more clearly.

### **Broad range of experiences/ good general education (N=2)**

It is very important to me because I think that with interdisciplinary learning you get more knowledge in more fields than you would if traditional learning.

Very much so. It creates a broader, more useful knowledge base to use in the real world.

### **Good alternative to traditional teaching methods (N=2)**

It is very important. It allows me to see the connections between subjects that I probably would not have made otherwise. When I attended [another WA four-year school] in the summer of 2007 I had a great experience. But then I came to Evergreen and saw the weaknesses of how traditional schools, like [the school I attended], teach in separate classes. Evergreen, on the other hand, teaches every subject at once and allows you to understand how things work together a lot more clearly.

Yes, especially in the program format. I feel like I'm able to learn a lot of things I wouldn't be able to at a conventional college and I also get a better understanding of how different fields relate.

### **Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills (N=2)**

It's quite important, because it teaches us how to expand our brains around other subjects concerning the main subject, though it is very hard to do!

Yes, I think the interdisciplinary learning helps students to "think on their feet"

### **Collaborative, Brings in multiple student and faculty views/ perspectives (N=2)**

Yes, it makes me stay motivated. It's easy to just get an A or B but actually working hard for the perfect evaluation is harder. I love seminar and being able to talk about issues with the class as a whole and hearing other people's opinions.

Interdisciplinary learning is essential for my own experience at Evergreen. I feel that without the integrated scopes of focus on a myriad of topics, that my learning experience would be very empty and vague. I fully appreciate the collaborative atmosphere here, in which students and teachers all retain and are able to relate their varying interests, strengths, and weaknesses in a very concrete and fulfilling way.

### **Gives you adaptability/flexibility (N=2)**

I think interdisciplinary learning is good because it causes students to be exposed to subjects they may not otherwise have pursued but the most important thing to me is having the freedom and flexibility to study what I want, how I want.

Yes, it eliminates the need for boring prerequisites and instead applies numerous focuses onto your points of interest.

**If properly implemented (N=2)**

Yes, it's important to see how different separate subjects can integrate with each other, as they do in jobs or other practical (outside academia) matters. On another note, I decided to take mostly courses this quarter due to the LACK of focus on any particular subject within my program; I found although we would circle ideas and actual how-to of writing, we never actually delved into writing itself as a subject matter, or any specific topic for that matter.

It is, but only there has to be a main focus and not just a bunch of hodgepodge.

**Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=2)**

It is, but only there has to be a main focus and not just a bunch of hodgepodge.

Yes, it's important to see how different separate subjects can integrate with each other, as they do in jobs or other practical (outside academia) matters. On another note, I decided to take mostly courses this quarter due to the LACK of focus on any particular subject within my program; I found although we would circle ideas and actual how-to of writing, we never actually delved into writing itself as a subject matter, or any specific topic for that matter.

**Relationship with instructors (N=2)**

Yes, I can get a well rounded education. It's also nice that my teachers can communicate.

Yes, I enjoy spending time and creating relationship with teachers and students. I enjoy learning several topics that are related to eachother, it just makes more sense.

**Stimulating, engaging (N=1)**

Yes. It helps me to feel more connected to the school environment while also keeping me from losing interest in the material at hand

**You can get stuck taking things you don't want to (N=1)**

Yes, extremely. In middle and high school, I was always the one to bug the teacher about real-world application. I couldn't stand feeling like I was memorizing information to pass a test. A sense of connectedness with the material makes an objectively heavy workload manageable or even enjoyable; when I don't care about the narrow topic at hand, I don't care about the work related to it. My fall/winter program delivered the former. Now that I'm feeling less connected to the mountain of work we have, I've fallen back into the old game of figuring out how to give the teacher what he wants, rather than figuring out how to learn. That's why I marked "too heavy" for the workload.

**Innovative (N=1)**

Yes it is. I feel like interdisciplinary learning helps with more evolved college education.

**Can't code response (N=4)**

In my case it is, as Biology and teaching are two different things and I need to know about both of them.

Yes, I was not a big fan of grades because I don't think it shows how well you are doing or understand something.

It's a good idea but it wont save Evergreen.

yes because they effect everyone around us.

## Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

### Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'No'

#### Need more 4 and 8 cr classes, need more half time programs/FT programs limit options, flexibility (N=2)

Not especially in the sense that I would like to be able to take other courses along with the one I'm already in with art doing Evening and Weekend.

Not really, I can make the connections between subjects without having them taught to me through interdisciplinary learning. I feel the program system at Evergreen provides students with the only option of taking a class a few faculty want to teach, rather than taking subjects they want to take. I, for example am interested in the arts, and literary theory. However, since I can only take one program a quarter, and there weren't any programs that catered to what I wanted to learn or night/weekend classes I was interested in taking I feel like I've wasted an entire year learning about something I'm not entirely interested in.

#### You can get stuck taking things you don't want to (N=2)

No because I already know what I want to take from this school and I'm wasting my time on extra stuff.

Not really, I can make the connections between subjects without having them taught to me through interdisciplinary learning. I feel the program system at Evergreen provides students with the only option of taking a class a few faculty want to teach, rather than taking subjects they want to take. I, for example am interested in the arts, and literary theory. However, since I can only take one program a quarter, and there weren't any programs that catered to what I wanted to learn or night/weekend classes I was interested in taking I feel like I've wasted an entire year learning about something I'm not entirely interested in.

#### Traditional classes are good too (N=2)

No, I have enjoyed this year but miss taking one subject classes as well.

Not really. Because I like single disciplinary learning as well.

#### Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=1)

No because I already know what I want to take from this school and I'm wasting my time on extra stuff.

#### Don't know what it is/ Unclear on what interdisciplinary learning is (N=1)

Not really, don't know enough about it.

## Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

### Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Maybe or Yes with Conditions'

#### If properly implemented (N=6)

I think that it is good if done well. I think that in some cases it does not work as well. A seminar on the IPCC report is an example that doesn't really work.

Interdisciplinary learning is wonderful when the disciplines are sharply defined and the synthesis is clear - when a class descends into frenzy over debate about capitalism and gender studies, regardless of the educational content the class was originally positing, it is frustrating when a professor does not bring the focus back to the subjects we are paying to learn about.

yes, but at evergreen, i feel like my choices are even more limited then at a normal traditional college. Evergreen really doesn't seem to offer interdisciplinary courses, the are actually quite specific and centered on one thing.

Interdisciplinary learning is important as long as it doesn't interfere with the overall focus of a program.

I think interdisciplinary learning can be helpful at times, but it often can dilute certain fields of study and be counterproductive.

Only a little. While it ties many things together it also seems to divide the focus of some classes.

#### Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=4)

I think interdisciplinary learning can be helpful at times, but it often can dilute certain fields of study and be counterproductive.

Only a little. While it ties many things together it also seems to divide the focus of some classes.

It's important but it tends to force students to study generalizations of both subjects instead of allowing them to intently focus on one subject they'd prefer.

Yes, but so is "straight" learning. I would like certain classes to be non-interdisciplinary though. For example I am very intersted in film, photography, music, but mediaworks fall 2008 has an interdisciplinary environmental slant to it which I am not interested in. This was pretty frusterating because there is no straight media class for me to take and that would have been my first choice.

#### Traditional classes are good too (N=1)

Yes, but so is "straight" learning. I would like certain classes to be non-interdiscilpinary though. For example I am very intersted in film, photography, music, but mediaworks fall 2008 has an interdisciplinary environmental slant to it which I am not interested in. This was pretty frusterating because there is no straight media class for me to take and that would have been my first choice.

#### Helps synthesize information (N=1)

Only a little. While it ties many things together it also seems to divide the focus of some classes.

#### Limited selection of programs (N=1)

yes, but at evergreen, i feel like my choices are even more limited then at a normal traditional college. Evergreen really doesn't seem to offer interdisciplinary courses, the are actually quite specific and centered on one thing.

#### You can get stuck taking things you don't want to (N=1)

Yes, but so is "straight" learning. I would like certain classes to be non-interdiscilpinary though. For example I am very intersted in film, photography, music, but mediaworks fall 2008 has an interdisciplinary environmental slant to it which I am not interested in. This was pretty frusterating because there is no straight media class for me to take and that would have been my first choice.

#### Can't code response (N=1)

yes, but learning what I came to learn is more important.

## Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?

### Individual Responses of Students Who Indicated 'Unsure'

#### Can't/ Difficult to specialize or focus/ Want to focus (N=1)

I am not sure, it makes the courses more interesting but my credits seem worthless if I wanted to transfer, or if wanted to focus on one area in particular in a class.

#### Richer experience than with a traditional learning environment (N=1)

Interdisciplinary learning is something that I am still getting used to. It is an interesting method, and seems to be more effective at teaching critical thinking than traditional schooling styles.

#### Helps develop critical thinking skills and/or problem solving skills (N=1)

Interdisciplinary learning is something that I am still getting used to. It is an interesting method, and seems to be more effective at teaching critical thinking than traditional schooling styles.

#### Stimulating, engaging (N=1)

I am not sure, it makes the courses more interesting but my credits seem worthless if I wanted to transfer, or if wanted to focus on one area in particular in a class.

#### Interdisciplinary format is a hindrance for future learning endeavors (N=1)

I am not sure, it makes the courses more interesting but my credits seem worthless if I wanted to transfer, or if wanted to focus on one area in particular in a class.

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**Is Interdisciplinary Learning Important to You? Why or Why Not?**  
**Student Responses That Could Not be Categorized (N=4)**

It is an interesting concept that I have not gotten to experience this year.

?

What?

I'm not totally sure what that is.