

## 2020 New Student Survey Executive Summary

The New Student Survey (NSS) is administered to all new First-time, First-year (FTFY) and new Transfer Students. 124 Olympia FTFYs (56%) and 121 of Olympia Campus Transfers (46%) responded to the survey.

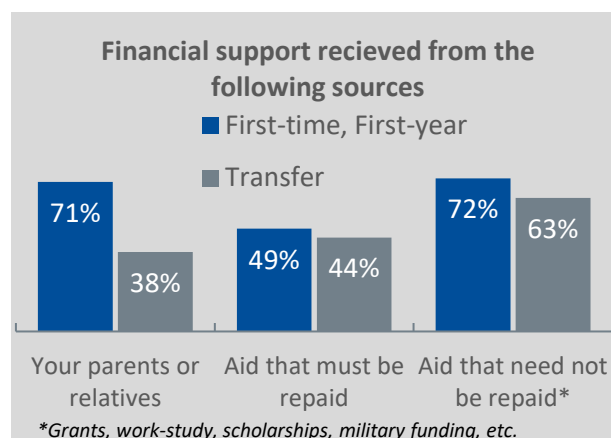
86% of FTFYs and 93% of Transfers plan to earn their Bachelor's from Evergreen. The remaining 7% of Transfers and 14% of First-time, First-years are unsure/do not want an Evergreen Bachelor's. Around 40% of students do not have a parent who earned a 4-year college degree.

### Paying for college is a hurdle for new students

20% of Transfers and 15% of FTFY are not at all or a little confident that they will have the funding to complete their studies at Evergreen.

A little under half of students get financial aid that must be repaid (student loans). 71% of FTFYs and 38% of transfers get financial support from their parents or relatives. 72% of FTFY and 63% of transfer students receive aid that need not be repaid. \*

Only about 50% of students are quite or very confident that they will be able to manage any debt that they incur in completing their education.



Half of all students are planning to work. Of those who plan to work - 12% of FTFYs and 37% of Transfers plan to work over 30 hours a week. 13% of Transfers have dependent children who live with them.

*"I haven't been in school for 15 years, and starting again, especially online is really challenging. I do not have very much financial padding so this is a big bold choice and I hope I can make it work. Being in a field that was deemed essential, I have worked even more than usual through COVID... and it has made it really clear to me that we exploit wage laborers heavily in this country, and I would like the opportunity to give my time and attention to something more than a wage... I have never invested in myself this way, and I'm afraid of debt and failure, but I'm also really thankful to have been accepted to Evergreen at such a late date."*

### Highest rated factors in students' decision to attend Evergreen

FTFYs	Ability to study in a variety of subjects	Transfers	Ability to study in a specific field
	Availability of interdisciplinary learning		Availability of interdisciplinary learning
	Natural surroundings/campus environment		Opportunity to design my own education

### Students report high levels of independence

Both Transfers and FTFYs are most comfortable learning independently and completing projects on their own. FTFYs are also very comfortable giving and receiving peer critique and working with other students on class projects. Transfers are more comfortable communicating with faculty or classmates using an online forum and asking faculty for extra help or advice.

The most important goals for college for students are (in order):

1. Personal growth and development
2. Gaining depth or expertise in a particular field
3. FTFY: Developing creative and effective communication skills  
Transfer: Gaining a better understanding and appreciation for differences

39% of FTFYs and 29% of Transfers rated their incoming skills in Math, Statistics, and Quantitative Reasoning as “Need extra help.”

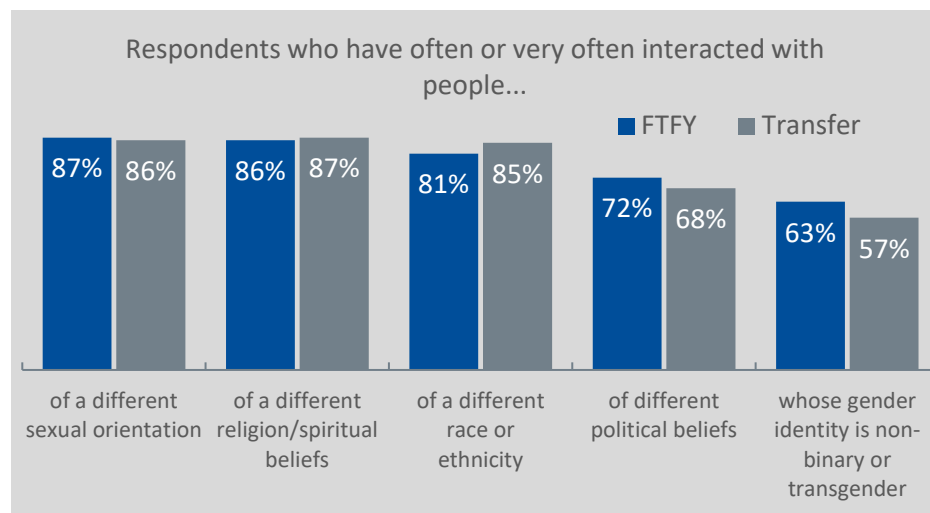
Students are most confident that they:

- Will obtain an interdisciplinary education
- Will develop skills and expertise in a specific field
- Will be able to use their education to meet life-long goals

Students are least confident in debt, funding, managing their time effectively and fitting in socially at Evergreen.

Interactions across differences occur often for most groups

Students are asked about how often they have interacted with different groups of people. Students have most often interacted with people of a different sexual orientation or religion, and least often with people whose gender identity is non-binary or transgender.



### Comments

This year's comments centered around COVID and hybrid and online learning, along with a lack of communication from admissions, financial aid, and academic advising.

*“Extraordinarily messy start. Very much looking forward to being communicated with timely and clearly by the college.”*

## FIELD OF STUDY

66% of FTFYs and 90% of Transfers plan to focus on a particular field or fields of study at Evergreen.

The most popular fields for students are:

- **Environmental Studies**
- **Psychology**
- **The Arts**

Nearly 50% of FTFYs and over a quarter of Transfers have interests which span more than one division.

*“My main interest is Plant Science with intersections: Environmental Science as means to provide context, Art as a means to communicate, and Law as a means to protect.”*

*-NSS 2020 Respondent*

For more detailed results visit:

[www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch/new-student-survey-2020](http://www.evergreen.edu/institutionalresearch/new-student-survey-2020)