



The Evergreen State College Ad Hoc Report for PEP

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Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO):

Erik Gimness (erik.gimness@evergreen.edu)



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Introduction

This report concerns the substantive change request for the Evergreen State College's Prison Education Program at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) in Aberdeen, WA. The substantive change request was approved by the NWCCU on April 26, 2024, and approved by the U.S. Department of Education on May 5, 2025. The first credit-bearing PEP courses were implemented by the college in Winter Quarter, January 2024 for non-matriculated students; for matriculated students in Winter Quarter, January 2025; and for financial aid-funded students in Spring Quarter 2025.

The following includes any major changes at the institution or PEP location since the approval of the program:

Name of the Program: Current students may still refer to the program as "Evergreen Inside," however the institution now refers to the program as the "Evergreen Prison Education Program" or "EPEP" (pronounced "EE-pep") internally and externally.

Will any portion of the program be available via distance education? Evergreen Prison Education Program (EPEP) will not offer its academic program through distance education. However, there may be opportunities during the summer quarter for students to further their education, and those courses may be offered as distance education (just as they are on Evergreen's Olympia campus). For example, in Summer 2025, "Independent Reading on the French Revolution," a portion of our enrolled students engaged in distance education. This course was made available to EPEP students as part of the regular Olympia campus curriculum. EPEP staff facilitated interaction between students and faculty with biweekly facility visits to receive and return student work, faculty feedback, and related materials, and faculty came to Stafford Creek at the end of the quarter for a celebratory sharing out of research.

Implementation Status

a. Educational offering(s)

Program Changes

The curricular offerings for the Evergreen Prison Education Program (EPEP) remain theme-based and inquiry-driven with a focus on critical thinking, scholarly agency, and the co-creation of knowledge. We deliver our core curriculum in a cohort, team-taught model, with accompanying labs and electives. The theme for any given school year shapes the series of interdisciplinary lectures, seminars, assemblies, and



workshops that all EPEP students are expected to attend. Themes will be selected according to student interest, available resources, and with regard to the “three ecologies” that orient our inquiries: ecosystems, communities, and individuals.

Assessment

EPEP students experience the same assessment as undergraduate students on Evergreen’s other campuses. At Evergreen, the assessment of student learning outcomes happens at two levels. Faculty teaching the program will assess class-level student learning outcomes quarterly through a narrative evaluation and one-on-one evaluation conference. All Evergreen students are required to complete self-evaluations, reflecting on the class-level learning outcomes and their personal learning journey. Throughout the curriculum, students have ample opportunities to provide feedback to the faculty team through regular class check-ins, all school assemblies, quarterly surveys, and verbal and written input.

b. Resources and Capacity

i. Roles and Responsibilities

Evergreen and DOC signed a second [Interagency Agreement \(IAA\)](#) on October 17, 2025. This IAA is for two years (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027) unlike the previous IAA, which was for only one year. Evergreen’s roles and responsibilities as outlined in the current IAA can be summarized as:

- Recruit, train, and supervise staff for BA program and workshops.
- Provide academic advising and financial aid support.
- Ensure compliance with DOC security and PREA training requirements.

DOC’s roles and responsibilities can be summarized as:

- Provide space, security clearance, and oversight for programming.

A significant change from the previous IAA to the current one is that DOC reimburses Evergreen for costs of attendance only if financial aid or third-party funding is insufficient. Here is the relevant RCW:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=72.09.460>

ii. Student Services

Evergreen faculty and staff provide holistic advising to support students in attaining their educational and career goals, and in identifying meaningful ways to apply their



learning in service of their communities. This model of faculty and staff providing students with academic advising is similar to Evergreen's graduate programs, the Evergreen Tacoma Program, and the Native Pathways Program. The EPEP model includes an Assistant Director of Prison Education and a Program Coordinator to support EPEP students and faculty. In addition, a member of Evergreen's Office of Financial Aid regularly attends EPEP student information sessions and supports the Assistant Director in helping students complete financial aid applications (Pell, WA State, and scholarship applications). The Director of Access Services meets with EPEP students in person at Stafford Creek Corrections Center as needed to conduct intake evaluations and connect them with learning accommodations. Starting in the Summer of 2025, we have developed a system in collaboration with our colleagues at the Olympia campus to make books from the Daniel J. Evans Library available to EPEP scholars in support of their research.

Evergreen has launched a second cohort of EPEP students at SCCC, supported by a dedicated team of staff and part-time faculty. A final addition to EPEP staff is the part-time IT support person that images the DOC-approved student laptops and maintains the technology support for the EPEP BA program (not an online academic program).

Responding to student feedback about the limited access to quiet space for study, EPEP faculty and staff began holding optional study hall sessions in Fall 2025. Students are also able to engage in academic advising during study hall and receive a copy of their academic progress once each quarter and as requested. In Winter 2026, EPEP launched a series of school-wide assemblies to offer opportunities for the cohorts to share their experience, knowledge, and visions for the program.

Evergreen continues to be the first four-year postsecondary institution in WA to host a community-based reentry navigator (aka Liberation Scholar Program Lead). This has connected us to the State Board of Community and Technical College's statewide network of navigators based in individual prisons and on college campuses across the state.

Staff and faculty who work with Gateways for Incarcerated Youth as well as the Sustainability in Prison Project also bring decades of experience in developing holistic student support services for incarcerated scholars.

iii. Facilities and Equipment

Evergreen has adequate space to offer its EPEP BA program and has been able to deploy laptops to all EPEP students who meet the Department of Corrections' eligibility parameters. EPEP supplies each admitted student with a satchel containing



study supplies (binder, lined paper, composition notebook, course dividers, folders, pen, and pencil) as well as all course texts.

Classroom schedule and capacity:

- Evergreen holds classes in two classrooms, three days a week, with an additional, optional study hall. Classrooms can typically accommodate up to 25 students.
- DOC has been able to provide:
 - Occasional office space to complete 1:1 financial aid counseling and phone calls to external agencies.
 - Additional occasional program space to accommodate events like the recently implemented school-wide assemblies.
 - Storage space for supplies, technology equipment, and textbook library.
 - Classroom infrastructure (tables/desks and whiteboards) and technology capabilities (screens and AV technology to allow for presentations).

EPEP staff are working with DOC to secure office space (drop in) and key access to additional supply storage and printing capabilities beyond the printing students can complete in the Computer Lab.

iv. Faculty and Staff

Since its application to launch its EPEP program, the college has expanded its faculty and staff for EPEP. Faculty and staff meet all the criteria already in place for our Olympia campus. EPEP is co-directed by a current faculty member and a college administrator in collaboration with an assistant director, a program coordinator, and student success professionals, with further support provided by a Dean of Prison Education and Graduate Programs. EPEP's four faculty members hold terminal degrees in their areas of interdisciplinary expertise and participate in annual professional development opportunities.

c. Budget and Enrollment

We are generally encouraged by enrollment in our Prison Education program. Our enrollment and tuition revenue were somewhat below initial estimates in the 2024-25 academic year, mainly because Pell was not approved by the Department of Education until spring quarter 2025. Because of the delay, we chose to pause our plans to admit a second cohort in 24-25. This essentially pushed back our enrollment growth plan by about one year. We were able to make up most of the gap in tuition



revenue in 24-25 through scholarships provided by the Evergreen Foundation. For the 25-26 academic year, we recruited and admitted a second cohort. While the delay noted above means our enrollment estimates are still lower than we had planned, the vast majority of students are enrolled full-time, resulting in the nearly 30 FTE we initially estimated. Early indications are that our net revenue for tuition this year will be higher than what we budgeted. This is mainly because we have not had to rely on tuition waivers to the degree we expected. In compliance with recent legislative changes, the Department of Corrections covers tuition for students not eligible for Pell in most circumstances. Additionally, we have a scholarship fund available to support students who are ineligible for financial aid and DOC funding.

The level of State appropriations earmarked to support our network of prison education programs was reduced between 24-25 and 25-26, as noted in the revenue section below. We have been able to minimize impacts to staff positions supporting the PEP program. We have shifted some positions onto non-operating funds and reduced other positions that were not directly supporting the bachelor's degree program at SCCC. While the table below shows a small budgeted operating deficit for 25-26, we do not expect to close the year with a deficit in this program, given expected salary savings.

Category	24-25 (FY1)		25-26 (FY2)	
	Initial Projection	Actual	Initial Projection	Budgeted*
I. Student Enrollment				
FTE Enrollment	20	15.7	30	29.9
Headcount Enrollment	30	21	45	31
II. Revenue				
Revenue (State Appropriation)	\$865,000	\$865,000	\$889,150	\$600,000
Revenue (Net Tuition)	\$75,496	\$64,316	\$116,641	\$192,380
Total Revenue	\$940,496	\$929,316	\$1,005,791	\$792,380
III. Expenditures				
Personnel Costs (Ongoing)	\$832,569	\$819,459	\$922,097	\$735,051
Operating Expenses (Ongoing)	\$52,500	\$80,941	\$55,000	\$62,750
Capital Outlay (Ongoing)	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$890,069	\$900,400	\$982,097	\$797,801
Net Income (Deficit)	\$50,427	\$28,916	\$23,694	(\$5,421)



d. Additional Factors

The following collage of quotations from recent narrative evaluations written by EPEP students offers a glimpse into the sense students are making of the “Evergreen Inside” learning experience.

“My first quarter at Evergreen was a transformative experience, one that challenged me both academically and personally. ... I wasn’t sure what to expect from Evergreen’s collaborative, discussion-driven environment. What I found was a style of learning that felt alive. The seminar format asked me not just to absorb information but to participate in shaping it.”

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“I’m learning to communicate and articulate without the anxiety I had growing up now and the more I engage in seminar the more confidence I have.”

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“My excitement for the opportunity to participate in this program mixed with my excitement to learn new skills and created a fully engaged academic quarter.”

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“The interdisciplinary structure of this program is opening my eyes to how things in life are interconnected ... I now see learning not as the accumulation of facts, but as a process of transformation, one that requires humility, openness, and critical engagement.”

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“My participation ... was essential to my growth as a scholar through Evergreen. This course has been a diverse, interactive, engaging adventure. I learned that I can hold multiple ideas simultaneously in tension, had my paradigms challenged, and had an opportunity to express my own work ...”

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“With the use of seminar, I saw things through the various perspectives of my peers, and through our three instructors’ wide-ranging interdisciplinary teaching methods, I firmly grasped the concepts presented through the varied subjects studied.”

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“I felt the freedom to express my educational experience ...”



Concluding Statement

The Evergreen Prison Education Program has demonstrated strong and steady growth since its initial approval, marked by the successful launch of its core curriculum, expansion of student services, development of processes and systems to support college work in a prison environment, addition of a second cohort, and increased institutional coordination with the Department of Corrections. Over this period, EPEP has strengthened its academic offerings through a robust, theme-based curriculum; expanded faculty, staff, and advising capacity; improved access to technology and learning resources; and deepened its commitments through a renewed interagency agreement that affirms long-term collaboration with DOC. These achievements reflect Evergreen's dedication to delivering high quality, holistic liberal arts education within SCCC and ensuring that incarcerated students have the tools, support, and learning environment necessary to thrive. In fulfilling these commitments, EPEP continues to advance Evergreen's mission to serve diverse learners, promote scholarly agency, and foster meaningful engagement across communities. As the program grows and evolves, Evergreen looks forward to strengthening its partnerships, building upon its early successes, and continuing to serve and learn alongside the incarcerated scholars who are central to this work.