

New Academic Directions: Conceptual Plan

As passed at the June 3, 2020 Faculty Meeting

VISION

Our students work in robust learning communities on pressing and complex problems, and they leave Evergreen as adaptable, creative, resilient change agents. Evergreen's 50th year is the right moment to boldly rethink how we engage student passions, honor our diverse community, and offer a student-centered interdisciplinary experience that values rich, creative learning in exciting new directions.

NEW ACADEMIC DIRECTIONS PROPOSAL

I. Identity & Organization *(passed by a vote a 90 in favor, 6 opposed, and 5 abstentions)*

We change our name from The Evergreen State College to Evergreen State University to reflect the complexity of our institutional mission and structures. Evergreen State University will comprise an undergraduate college with Interdisciplinary Schools (built from existing and emergent Paths) and a School of Graduate and Professional Studies. We will launch these interdisciplinary schools in Fall 2021 and evaluate this structure at the conclusion of the 2023- 2024 academic year.

The names and structures of the Interdisciplinary Schools for undergraduates will be developed during the summer and fall of 2020, and approved through a vote of the faculty by the end of fall 2020. The new structure will commence in academic year 2021-2022. This new structure will be evaluated during the summer of 2024.

The Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Schools ("schools" is a working term) will help students better understand the curriculum; will provide an organizational hub for wrap-around advising; and will better allow for various features of the curriculum, including certificates, capstones, and first year programs. Existing Paths (and emerging or new paths) will be grouped to form the Schools based on interdisciplinary clusters that are meaningful to students.

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies will improve visibility of existing graduate programs and promote coordination of recruitment, admissions, and student support across graduate programs. The School would also facilitate articulation of graduate and undergraduate curriculum, expansion of dual degree programs, and development of new graduate programs and certificates.

II. Student Experience: Advising and Assessment *(passed by a vote a 105 in favor, 2 opposed, and 5 abstentions)*

We develop and implement a support system for students that includes close advising and coaching throughout their experience at Evergreen, a revised transcript that includes a clear indication of certificates and capstones completed, and e-portfolios enabling students to construct an iterative, digital record of their learning.

III. Curricular Cohesion *(passed by a vote a 103 in favor, 5 opposed, and 8 abstentions)*

We pursue more strategic curriculum design by developing and implementing the following features: first year programs, levels of study, capstones, certificates, and integrated curriculum (integration across full-time, part-time, daytime, evening, weekend, and low-residency/online offerings) with consideration of all locations. Curricular cohesion in collaboration with local institutions also will be explored, especially strategic curricular innovation with local community colleges to serve more students, strengthen academic pathways, build on community connections, and increase access to diverse, interconnected higher education experiences from Running Start to graduate programs, from certificates to undergraduate completion.

IV. Racial Equity Statement *(passed by overwhelming majority.)*

As the Big Bets process continues, that it undergo an ongoing racial equity assessment, and appropriate changes be made to prioritize racial equity in the implementation.