**Evergreen SNAAP Highlights**

The Strategic National Arts alumni Project (SNAAP) is a survey that provides data on how artists develop and helps identify factors that better connect arts training to artistic careers. SNAAP uses a very broad definition of art that includes (but isn’t limited to) people who studied Performance, Illustration, Fine Arts, Media Arts, Design, Writing, Architecture, Music, and Dance.

96% of Evergreen arts alumni rate their experience as good or excellent.

94% of Evergreen arts alumni would recommend Evergreen to a student like them.

83% of Evergreen arts alumni would start over again at Evergreen if given the chance.

75% of Evergreen arts alumni worked with an artist in the community while at Evergreen.

**Satisfaction with Evergreen’s Institutional Experiences**

Evergreen arts alumni are most satisfied with:

- Freedom and encouragement to take risks (80% very satisfied)
- Instructors in classrooms, labs, and studios (64%)
- Opportunities in different artistic disciplines (61%)
- Opportunities to take non-arts classes (61%)

Evergreen arts alumni are least satisfied with:

- Opportunities for internships or work (19% very satisfied)
- Networking with alumni and others (13%)
- Advising about career or further education (12%)

**Areas for Improvement**

Largest gaps identified by Evergreen arts alumni (skill rated “very important” to work/professional life by Evergreen arts alumni but recent grads (those who graduated after 2011) did not acquire that skill “very much” at Evergreen.)

- **Financial and business skills** - 44% of arts alumni think this skill is “very important,” but only 10% of recent grads thought Evergreen helped them acquire that skill “very much.” 25% of recent grads responded that Evergreen helped them not at all with financial and business skills.
- **Networking** – 72% of arts alumni think it is “very important,” but only 44% of recent grads think that Evergreen helped them acquire networking skills “very much.”
- **Project management skills** 75% very important/49% Evergreen helped acquire project management skills.
- **Technological skills** – 58% very important/33% acquired at Evergreen.
- **Entrepreneurial skills** – 39% very important/19% acquired at Evergreen.
  - 19% of recent grads responded that Evergreen helped them not at all with Entrepreneurial skills.

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1 Evergreen joined 55 other higher education institutions during the 2015 online administration of the SNAAP survey. There were 436 arts alumni respondents from Evergreen (a response rate of 20% - higher than the overall SNAAP response rate of 16%). Evergreen arts alumni in this survey graduated between 1990 and 2014. Data that compares Evergreen to all surveyed schools can be found in the full SNAAP report.
Education & Employment

86% of Evergreen arts alumni are working or in school full-time.

- 48% of Evergreen arts alumni currently work, either full- or part-time, as an artist.
- 77% of Evergreen arts alumni are, or have been, self-employed or a freelance worker.
- 56% of Evergreen arts alumni’s first job post-graduation was somewhat or closely related to their training.
- 54% of Evergreen arts alumni think that their arts training from Evergreen is relevant or very relevant to their current work.

Recent Evergreen Arts Graduates (arts alumni who graduated after 2011) Employment
84% of recent Evergreen arts graduates are working full- or part-time, or are in school full-time.
- 73% of recent Evergreen arts graduates made under $30,000 a year in 2014.
- Only 30% of recent grads who worked as an artist in 2014 made more than 50% of their income from working as an artist.

60% of Evergreen arts alumni pursued one or more degrees after graduation from Evergreen (mostly Master’s degrees). 47% of these students pursued an arts-related degree.

34% of Evergreen arts alumni completed an internship while at Evergreen.

Job Satisfaction

- Evergreen arts alumni who are working in arts fields are most satisfied with their opportunity to be creative.
- Evergreen arts alumni who are working in non-arts fields are most satisfied with job security.

Community Involvement

- 36% of Evergreen arts alumni have donated money to an arts organization in the past year.
- 27% of Evergreen arts alumni have volunteered at an arts organization in the past 12 months.
- 7% served on the board of an arts organization in the past 12 months.

Recent Evergreen Arts Graduates (arts alumni who graduated after 2011) – Student Loans
- 41% of recent Evergreen arts graduates incurred no student loan debt to attend Evergreen.
- Of the 59% who incurred student loan debt, 53% said it had a major impact on their career & educational decisions.


“The Evergreen State College was great for developing my art and learning new things. It was less successful at preparing me for post-graduation life.” - Evergreen Arts Alum ‘94
Evergreen arts alumni were asked how their arts training at Evergreen is or is not relevant to their work and/or their participation in civic and community life. Evergreen faculty and staff took the time to organize the quotes from alumni into different categories. The office of Institutional Research and Assessment used the quotes chosen by faculty to show how arts alumni meet and exceed the Six Expectations of an Evergreen graduate.

1. **Articulate and assume responsibility for your own work.**

A successful Evergreen graduate will know how to work well with others, not only in the workplace or social contexts, but as an active participant in the struggle for a more just world. You will assume responsibility for your actions as an individual and exercise power responsibly and effectively.

*Examples:*
- [Art] helps to connect to society and other people. It encourages empathy and critical thinking, which are both incredibly important for creating human beings concerned with something beyond themselves. (Evergreen arts alum | Class of 2011)
- Evergreen really helped me develop my confidence, which certainly helped me assume a leadership role where I work. (2006)
- Evergreen taught me to be who I am, nothing more and nothing less. (2012)
- [I think] my interdisciplinary coursework at Evergreen helps me manage complex responsibilities and has prepared me well for the interdisciplinary and complex nature... of my current academic and professional pursuits. The socio-economic awareness and cultural sensitivity that Evergreen instills/reinforces helps drive me to be a responsible and compassionate member of my community, through everyday interactions and decisions made regarding the small studio/gallery/shop that I founded, and... through the design decisions I make in my job. (2008)

2. **Participate collaboratively and responsibly in our diverse society.**

A successful Evergreen graduate will understand that by giving of yourself you make the success of others possible. A thriving community is crucial to your own well-being. The study of diverse worldviews and experiences will help you to develop the skills to act effectively as a local citizen within a complex global framework.

*Examples:*
- [My] broad education at Evergreen has made it easier for me to work with other people. It has made me more tolerant of the various ways people work. (2006)
- Evergreen gave me more of an awareness of how art can support community and global issues. For example, while at Evergreen, I participated in events such as World Artists for Tibet. Now, I occasionally donate my time to such causes, most recently to [a] project bringing clean water and education to places such as Uganda. (1997)
- Evergreen encourages collaborative work. I feel that seminars prepared me to have critical discussions in group settings, and that Evergreen’s multidisciplinary philosophy taught me how to collaborate with people who possess skills that I don’t. I use both of these skills often in board meetings, as an educator, or as a volunteer coordinator. (2011)
3. **Communicate creatively and effectively.**

A successful Evergreen graduate will know how to listen objectively to others so as to understand and accept a wide variety of viewpoints. By developing a genuine interest in the experiences of others, you will learn to ask thoughtful questions, to communicate persuasively, and express yourself creatively.

*Examples:*
- Evergreen's "seminar" format has provided me with good tools for listening to a wide range of points-of-view & communicating/coordinating/understanding with fairness & openness. (1995)
- My arts training helps me deliver better presentations and write more creatively. I studied media, video, writing, and explored painting at TESC. (1994)
- I was taught that storytelling and performance can be a means of telling stories that need to be told and perhaps even become a catalyst for change in some small way. (2003)

4. **Demonstrate integrative, independent, critical thinking.**

A successful Evergreen graduate will have the ability to appreciate and critically evaluate a range of topics, across academic disciplines. As you explore these disciplines, you will develop a greater curiosity toward the world around you, and its interconnections, that will enhance your skills as an independent, critical thinker.

*Examples:*
- The critical thinking skills I learned at Evergreen have actually allowed me to outperform my peers when it comes to analytical and conceptual thinking, which has been very relevant for systems and data analysis necessary for my work. I find the fact that I can conceptualize theoretical underpinnings remarkably useful in a variety of applications. (2004)
- My arts training taught me how to think outside the box, analyze, deconstruct and reconstruct information and situations. (1997)
- I currently work at a website devoted bringing creative projects to life. I help write policy and assess projects (specifically in the categories of technology and design) to determine whether or not they violate our rules. It's important to think holistically and empathetically, and to create logical systems that maintain an open ecosystem while at the same time deterring abuse. I learned much of this thinking through discussions centered around critical theory and philosophy. At Evergreen, I learned to stake a claim, think deeply, and argue logically. (2012)

5. **Apply qualitative, quantitative and creative modes of inquiry appropriately to practical and theoretical problems across disciplines.**

A successful Evergreen graduate will understand the importance of the relationship between analysis and synthesis. Through being exposed to the arts, sciences and humanities, and coming to your own critical understanding of their interconnectedness, you will learn to apply appropriate skills and creative ways of thinking to the major questions that confront you in your life.

*Examples:*
- All my arts training is invaluable because it helps me to approach every difficulty from the standpoint of, how can I creatively solve this problem? (1991)
6. As a culmination of your education, demonstrate depth, breadth and synthesis of learning and the ability to reflect on the personal and social significance of that learning.

A successful Evergreen graduate will be able to apply the personal frame of reference you develop as a result of this unique education in order to make sense of the world. This understanding will allow you to act in a way that is both easily understood by and compassionate toward other individuals across personal differences.

Examples:

- My arts training at Evergreen gave me a window into developing an arts practice, and taught me how to translate learning from one arena to another. This has allowed me to synthesize what might seem like disparate educational experiences. (2007)

- As a music and visual-arts student at Evergreen, I developed my life-long interest in all of the arts, and came to understand better the underlying philosophical, technological, and conceptual components more deeply, and my studies in science and literature contribute to my depth of experience... Evergreen was a key to further opening my mind to other traditions and styles - for example, Tyco drumming, and conceptual artists, such as Korean-American Byron Kim. (2009)

- I have to say, my arts training at Evergreen was also a training in social issues. I was encouraged to understand art and visual culture as always already political. Art, and even art history, was used to politicize me at Evergreen. I loved it. (2012)

- My work blurs the boundaries of investigative journalism, activism, creative writing, and visual arts. These are all things I studied and melded through practice at Evergreen.(2012)