

The Evergreen State College
Evergreen New Student Survey 2007
Olympia Campus

How do you identify racially/ethnically?

Students were asked how they identify racially and ethnically. This question was open-ended and students responded in a variety of ways, including references to nationality and culture, which are generally considered to be distinct from race and ethnicity. Students' responses were analyzed and grouped into the categories below. These categories were created in an attempt to describe the complex identities of students.

Racial/Ethnic Group	Number of First-time, First-years (N=498)*	Percentage of First-time, First-years	Number of Transfer Students (N=339)*	Percentage of Transfer Students
Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American, Asian nationality, culture, ethnicity	20	4.0%	11	3.2%
Black or African American, African nationality, culture, ethnicity	4	0.8%	3	0.9%
Hispanic or South American nationality, culture, ethnicity	14	2.8%	7	2.1%
Middle Eastern, Jewish, Middle Eastern nationality, culture, ethnicity	5	1.0%	2	0.6%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	77	15.5%	34	10.0%
Native American/American Indian	2	0.4%	6	1.8%
White/Caucasian or European descent, European nationality, culture, ethnicity	346	69.5%	241	71.1%
Not able to code	30	6.0%	35	10.3%
Total	498	100.0%	339	100.0%

* Represents the number of students who responded to this open-ended question.

The table below gives examples of the ways in which students described themselves and how responses were categorized. General descriptions and terms are used as revealing the exact response of every student may inadvertently reveal the identity of some survey respondents.

Racial/Ethnic Categorization	Description
Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian American, Asian nationality, culture, ethnicity	Some students wrote in general descriptions of their identity using the terms: Asian, Asian American, Asian mixed, Asian/Pacific Islander, etc. Others specified a particular national heritage along with the description of being an American such as: Korean American or Vietnamese American. Others wrote in an Asian nationality only such as Japanese, or in terms of specific ethnic minority groups in Asia.
Black or African American, African nationality, culture, ethnicity	Students described themselves as: Black, African American, Afro-American and as "Black, African."

Racial/Ethnic Categorization	Description
Hispanic or South American nationality, culture, ethnicity	Some students described themselves as Hispanic or as Latino. Others mentioned identities linked to Mexico or Mexico and America, such as: Mexican, Chicano, or Mexican American. Others described themselves with reference to South American countries and U.S. territories.
Middle Eastern, Jewish, Middle Eastern nationality, culture, ethnicity	Students described themselves as being associated with Middle Eastern countries or as being Jewish.
Multiracial or Multiethnic	Students who described themselves in terms of two or more racial or ethnic groups were included in this category. Note: While the US Census Bureau does not count being of a Hispanic ethnicity and another "race" as a multiracial as of 2000 Census definitions, students who indicated that they were Hispanic and another racial or ethnic category were coded as multiracial or multiethnic.
Native American/American Indian	Some students described themselves generally as Native American or Alaskan Native, while others included specific tribal affiliations.
White/Caucasian or European descent, European nationality, culture, ethnicity	Many students described themselves in general terms, such as: White, Caucasian, Caucasian American, European American. Others referred more specifically to an identity tied to European nations or regions of Europe, such as: Irish, German American, Scandinavian, Northern European etc. Some students described themselves as being of mixed European heritages. These identities were included in this category rather than the "Multiracial or Multiethnic" group. Students who identified as "Spanish" were included in this category, although they could have been categorized as "Hispanic."
Not able to code	There were a wide range of responses that could not be categorized in the above categories. Some students resisted categorizing themselves or chose to comment on the survey question. Some students wrote in alternative categories such as: Human, Cascadian, and New Englander.

Note: The categorization of open-ended questions yielded different results from BANNER data as summarized in the Evergreen New Student Survey 2007 Survey Methodology. BANNER data was used in the survey methodology to test for representativeness of respondents compared to the population. BANNER data as presented in the survey methodology did not include a multi-racial category. The percentage of students within a single racial or ethnic identity is much smaller in this analysis, because many of the students who were coded in single racial/ethnic categories actually describe themselves in terms that can be described as multiracial or multiethnic. The percentage of students identifying as White/Caucasian is very similar between the two sets of data.