

The Evergreen State College
Evergreen New Student Survey 2007
Olympia Campus – Transfer Students

Plans after Graduation

Students were asked to respond to the open-ended question, "What do you plan to do after you graduate?" There were no further prompts and students could write about anything. A total of 355 transfer students wrote a response to the question and 8 skipped the question altogether. Some students wrote about multiple themes, such as traveling, going to graduate school, pursuing a career, and having fun. Some students focused on long-term goals, while others wrote about what they planned to do immediately after graduation. Students' comments were categorized and are summarized below.

Pursuit of Careers

There were 194 students who wrote about work after graduation from Evergreen. Some students mentioned work, career or job without specifying the field in which they planned to work. A few students commented that they wanted to continue as better employees where they were working and others wrote of plans to make a career change. Students expressed hope for careers that would allow them to travel, help them to pay off student loans, retire at an early age, earn a living wage, gain diverse kinds of experience, work in the community to help others, and work in a job that is enjoyable.

Education

Among students who wrote about employment, 34 Olympia campus transfer students specified that they will work in the field of education. Students planned to teach at levels from K-12 to 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Some students planned to focus on teaching in a U.S. urban context, while others wrote of teaching abroad. Students planned to teach in a variety of areas including: botany, fine art, history, English, humanities, literature, psychology, special education, and sustainability. Students also mentioned interests in coaching soccer programs, working with schools to develop better school lunch programs, working with the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board, and employment in other jobs in educational administration. One student wrote that they would like to be a "life-long academic."

Environmental Conservation and Natural Resource Careers

Twenty-one students wrote about careers in environmental conservation or natural resources. Students wrote about the following careers: marine biologist, forest ranger, ornithologist, zookeeper, and polar bear biologist. Students hoped to work for the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Geological Survey, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Ecology, and with Thurston and other local counties. Students wrote about working in environmental planning, heading conservation projects, doing conservation research, working with fisheries, and contributing to solving water shortages and working on other issues that involve water and politics.

Entrepreneurialism/Starting Businesses

Nineteen students wrote about pursuing entrepreneurial projects or starting businesses. Students expressed interest in forming a corporation, opening an educational center, and starting a consulting business. Interests included business related to design, recording, organic farming, dogs, music, hospitality, and sustainability. Some students did not specify the type of business that they would like to start.

Health, Social Work, and Social Services

This subcategory includes work in health, social work, and social services. There were 18 students who had comments that fit within these fields. Several students planned to work with at risk children and troubled teens. Other students wrote about plans to work with child protection, be employed in a child welfare department, work on domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and provide affordable marriage and family counseling for underinsured people. Students wrote that they intended to work in psychology, counseling, psychiatry, art therapy, counseling in high school, in neuropathic medicine, and in alcohol and substance abuse counseling. Some students were less specific; they wrote about social work and human services without further explanation. There were other comments regarding health such as interests in pursuing genetics research and in the diagnosis of mental disorders.

Other Professions

Eighteen students wrote of their interests in other professions, which included: getting involved in politics, community development, and the labor movement; writing for alternative news sources; web development or design; industrial design; human resources; and real estate. Students hoped to work for various governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations including the United Nations, Amnesty International, a local or county level planning department, and Washington State Emergency Management, among others. Some students also cited an interest in the gaming industry.

Graduate School or Further Education

There were 115 students who wrote about attending graduate school or further education after graduating from Evergreen. Some students specified the type of degree they wished to pursue including: Master's degrees, a degree in Veterinarian Medicine, PhDs, JDs, and other terminal degrees. One student mentioned additional certification in therapy-related fields.

Students mentioned a variety of fields in which they planned to pursue graduate degrees: African studies, anthropology, art, art therapy, biology, business marketing, diplomacy, ecology, English, environmental studies, family and child psychology, film, history, international development, international law, international relations, law, liberal science, marriage and family therapy, nursing, performing arts, policy/planning, public administration, public health, social work, sociology, and teaching. Some students intended to continue at Evergreen in graduate programs including: Master in Teaching, Master in Environmental Studies, and Master in Public Administration programs. In addition to Evergreen, students wrote of plans to enroll in graduate programs at Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle University, University of British Columbia, University of Washington, and Yale University. In addition to plans to

attend specific institutions, students also wrote about future pursuit of graduate degrees in Washington, California, Colorado, Louisiana, and overseas. Some students said that they were going to graduate school but they did not specify either the type of degree they will pursue or their field of study.

Traveling/Doing Something Abroad

Forty-nine transfer students wrote about plans to travel or do something abroad when asked about plans after graduation. Joining the Peace Corps was classified both under “helping others” and travel because it involves traveling outside the country. Many students mentioned travel with the intention of doing work and/or exploring or initiate cultural and environmental change. Some students made the following comments: join Peace Corps, join AmeriCorps, go to Africa, travel to Latin America, go to Japan, live in a Southeast Asian country, travel to the Czech Republic, explore the communities around the world, and move to a Third world country to start an eco friendly movement. Several students mentioned that they wanted to travel in order to do humanitarian work. Other students wrote of the desire to travel without specifying where or what they were planning to do.

Working for the Greater Good: Helping Communities, Individuals, and the World

Forty-three students had comments about helping others, from helping individuals to whole communities to the entire world. Transfer students wrote that they will join Peace Corps, Green Peace or AmeriCorps. Others commented that they will help build strong healthy communities, give back to the community by preserving the earth, offer spiritual and life direction, help youth who are incarcerated or are at risk, advocate for change on healthcare issues, and solve water shortages and other related issues. One student wrote that he planned to: “Achieve enlightenment, change the world and be a family man.”

Time off/Relax/Retire

Five students wrote about relaxing, taking time off or retiring after they graduate. Some students commented that they will take a summer to a year off. Others wrote of sleeping.

Family

Four students wrote about family, including being a family man, starting a family, and caring for parents.