

The Evergreen State College
Evergreen New Student Survey 2010
Olympia Campus

Additional Comments

The Evergreen New Student Survey 2010 included the open-ended field: "Feel free to write in any other comments you would like to share." Olympia campus respondents' comments were categorized and are summarized below. Some comments had multiple themes; therefore, categories are not mutually exclusive. The most common themes were excitement or enthusiasm to attend Evergreen (38%) and concerns about financial aid or their financial situation (22%).

Additional Comments (categories are not mutually exclusive)

	Olympia Campus Respondents (N=152)*	
	N	%
Excited/Enthusiasm for Evergreen	58	38.2%
Financial Situation or Financial Aid	34	22.4%
Non-Resident, Transfer and Non-Traditional Student Issues	11	7.2%
Academic Offerings and Availability	8	5.3%
Thank You - General	7	4.6%
Faculty/Staff	4	2.6%
Student Activities and Campus Life	3	2.0%
:)/<3	3	2.0%
Residential and Dining Services	2	1.3%
Comments about the survey itself	20	13.2%
Other	9	5.9%

*N refers to the number of students who wrote in a comment.

The individual comments that were included in each category are detailed below. Some students had comments that fit within multiple categories and were listed more than once. Comments are redacted to protect individual students' identities.

Excited/Enthusiasm for Evergreen (N=58)

awesome!

college. woot.

Evergreen has been wonderful so far i cant wait to get started with my program but i am a little intimidated by the way it all, i am hoping that i can handle everything i need to do to make it here

Evergreen is bomb as hell

EVERGREEN!

Excited for fall! Going to be on [an Evergreen athletics team]

Go Evergreen!

Go geoducks!!

Great place, for some great people.

I am really excited about this upcoming school year at Evergreen. Beyond my interest in alternative medicine I also have a passion for [the performing arts]. Foreign languages, books, ceramics, art, nature, guitar and Singing! I am a [profession] and would fit well with someone who loves the outdoors and is active. Thanks for having such an in depth survey.

I am so excited to go to this school. I have lived in [city], WA for a year now, and everyday I have to exist in this soulless town I yearn more and more for Evergreen's forest and the classes and the students and faculty. Everything about the school is what I want, and what I have come to realize I need as well. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

I am very excited to join the community at Evergreen. I felt welcomed immediately as I stepped on to the campus.

I can't wait to join you guys down there as a new Goeyduck!

I can't wait to start my education at Evergreen!

I cant wait!!!!

I hope I can become that much closer to the person I want to be and achieve the things I want to achieve after this 4 more years. Evergreen is my best shot at this. I'm ready to work hard and I really really really hope this burning desire stays forever. I can't wait for Evergreen Fall 2010.

I love evergreen I just wish it was more affordale for out of state tuition.

I love Evergreen.

I love me some Geoducks!

I really love this school. The teaching philosophy strongly appeals to me. I also enjoy seeing peoples reactions when I tell them I'm going here.

I think that Evergreen will be an exciting, positive, and rewarding environment for me.

I'm excited to start school :)

I'm so excited (n=3)

I'm so excited to attend Evergreen in the fall!

I'm so excited to attend Evergreen!

I'm so excited to be out of high school.

I'm so excited to go here.

I've only heard great things about Evergreen

Look, I just wanna do what I wanna do. I think Evergreen can help me do that. Thanks.

Psyched for life! (and all the other stuff) Thank you

This is gonna be awesome.

very excited for the experience/community!

[...] Of the six Evergreen Scholarship applications I filled out, [I was only awarded one. I was awarded a state scholarship] however due to the state's economy, those funds have been cut from the budget. [...] I sincerely hope I find my way through the new learning experience at Evergreen. As a [non-traditional student], this is going to be one heck of a journey. My hope is that I give something back to Evergreen in exchange for what I believe will be a life changing education. Thank you.

i am excited about starting at Evergreen. I am stressing over getting the money I need but am doing what I need to do to meet this goal. [I have a lot of emotional support from my family]. I know I will get the money needed to pay for my education. I will sell body parts if it comes down to it. I am dedicated to getting my degree at Evergreen and starting a new life.

Excited/Enthusiasm for Evergreen (N=58)

I am looking forward to matriculating at TESC. [...] I am a bit older than the average new student at Evergreen, but I am confident that previous educational experience as well as professional and military experience will help me to achieve the goals I have set for myself in attending TESC.

I am uber excited about coming to Evergreen. I am a bit disturbed by the vast amounts of E-Mails I have received in the last few months that all in one way or another pertain to hate crimes. Cars vandalized, walls painted on, forums getting hateful messages posted, multiple protests that lean towards the extremists points of views. I have always heard and thought of Evergreen as an understanding place where people accept and embrace differences in one another. I really hope these incidents are not the norm here. I really don't want people yelling at me with pictures of aborted fetuses, simply because I am walking to class. I don't want my car broken into if I support my friends in the military. Can I feel safe, or is Evergreen so liberal that the people giving the school a bad name will keep on damaging the reputation of the school.

I appreciate what Evergreen stands for- a holistic approach to redefining what it means to have a diverse education in a more-than diverse world. Evergreens curriculum provides the necessary information to cultivate an awareness within its students and stimulates a growing population of concerned individuals to pursue a worth-while education. A million thank-yous are in order, for Evergreen is just what we need!

I'm really getting excited about going to evergreen. When I first applied it was just "the next step", and I'd always had some idea that I'd fit in well at evergreen. But now I'm starting to realize how much I'll grow in the next two years, and I can already taste the tantalizing array of knowledge and experience set ahead of me. This is going to be great for me, and I can't wait for September!

I'm very excited to go to Evergreen! Living in Olympia more or less my whole life, and having [a family member] go to Evergreen, I have practically grown up on campus. It is a very comfortable, beautiful, and inspiring place to be. I have found fellow students there to be polite and open minded. While I enjoyed my time at community college, I can tell that it was lacking, but perhaps I was just ready for a college like Evergreen. Because of my financial situation I was concerned that I would not be able to attend. But, through hard work, good grades, and scholarship applications, I have "made the grade," and will be able to attend without going in to debt! I'm very excited!

My parents [...] never attended college. They wanted me to go to college after graduating from high-school but I wanted to be independent rather than rely on my parents. [...] I never imagined to go back to school. After I was laid off from my position [...], my friend encourage me to go back to school and I decided it was my opportunity to aim high. I always wanted to work with community of people and I believe Evergreen will help me learn effective way to bring people together. I can't wait to start attending school in Fall 2010 and thank you for letting me share my feelings.

With my interest in art, there have been classes that have interested me over the last couple of years. I read the catalog online to investigate. I have a friend who was very pleased with the quality of education she received at Evergreen [...]. But most importantly I can study weekends and evenings as well as independently [...]. I'm a very self-directed worker, and believe my work at Evergreen will lead to obtaining a gallery in which to show my art, as well as the opportunity to get an MFA. I wish Evergreen would offer an MFA program!

Moved to olympia [a few years ago] to get residency. its been fun, am excited for start.

I am excited to learn and finish what I started [several years ago]!

I'm so excited to start school in the fall, I can hardly wait!

I can't wait for school to start.

I absolutely love the community on this campus. It's like nothing else I've ever seen, people simply love and care for each other so much.

Thank you (: I'm excited to start

I am returning student returning after [many] years [with children at home.] [...], now ready to retrain and apply myself 1000% to my studies. I am [an older student] and look forward to my trainings and new life experiences.

Excited to ettend Evergreen & I look forward to the Journey.

I am very excited!

It was the combination of interdisciplinary studies, affordable tuition, emphasis on the environment/sustainability, beauty of the location, and the mascot that made me choose Evergreen State.

I am still asking for financial help from relatives, but I have not yet received it

I LOVE EVERGREEN!! STAFF IS VERY HELPFUL!

Can't wait for school to start! :)

I'm glad to get my career started at your institution

I am extremely excited to learn at Evergreen and I am only worried about the cost of attendance.

Financial Situation and Financial Aid (N=35)

[... I was awarded a state scholarship] however due to the state's economy, those funds have been cut from the budget. [...] I sincerely hope I find my way through the new learning experience at Evergreen. As a [non-traditional student], this is going to be one heck of a journey. My hope is that I give something back to Evergreen in exchange for what I believe will be a life changing education. Thank you.

extended scholarship due date

financial aid sucks

I [am low income] and both me and my [sibling] are attending expensive schools. We don't have very much money.

I am an out-of-state student, for me tuition is twice as much as an residential student. Because of this I am trying to gain residency, or financial independence, in Washington as soon as possible to relieve some of the financial burden. Other forms of financial aid are not as readily available as I thought they would be.

I am concerned that I won't be able to afford school because I was denied financial aid and my parents aren't helping me with school much anymore.

i am excited about starting at Evergreen. I am stressing over getting the money I need but am doing what I need to do to meet this goal. [I have a lot of emotional support from my family]. I know I will get the money needed to pay for my education. I will sell body parts if it comes down to it. I am dedicated to getting my degree at Evergreen and starting a new life.

I am extremely excited to learn at Evergreen and I am only worried about the cost of attendance.

I am still asking for financial help from relatives, but I have not yet received it

I am still unclear of financial aide and if I will be receiving any help from them this school year.

I did have trouble trying to find financial aid for this year. I am an out of state student and my main source of funding is through parent loans. I can not really take out a parent loan because my parent does not have the means to pay it off. I wished Evergreen would have helped me find other means of paying other then through parent loans.

I got a depressing amount of financial aid. I'll be poorer after college than before.

I have yet to receive my financial aid packet, it has been "making progress" for two weeks now, and if I do not get enough of a financial aid packet, I will not be able to attend in the fall. This is the college of my choice, and if I am unable to attend, I will have to wait a year now, since the [state university] deadline for the attendance fee was [in June]. My only dwindling caution about Evergreen is that the financial aid office is taking its time when all us who can't afford 30,000 a year are sitting by our computers, waiting every week to see if we can change our families luck by going to college.

I haven't heard back from finacial aid yet

I love evergreen I just wish it was more affordale for out of state tuition.

I wish I could declare myself as independent, seeing as I am so I could get more help paying for school.

I would love to know about any grants or monies available for me as student and parent

I'm very excited to go to Evergreen! Living in Olympia more or less my whole life, and having [a family member] go to Evergreen, I have practically grown up on campus. It is a very comfortable, beautiful, and inspiring place to be. I have found fellow students there to be polite and open minded. While I enjoyed my time at community college, I can tell that it was lacking, but perhaps I was just ready for a college like Evergreen. Because of my financial situation I was concerned that I would not be able to attend. But, through hard work, good grades, and scholarship applications, I have "made the grade," and will be able to attend without going in to debt! I'm very excited!

It is absolutely terrible that my parent's low income last year still did not qualify me for any financial aid other than "loans".

It would be helpful when applying for finacial aid to have your dept. understand that your income will change downward when attending schol. -thanks.

It's unfortunate for the students who are claimed as a dependent, yet are completely responsible for their finances, that we can't get financial aid or participate in work study. That being said, I understand the system works for the majority.

Lots of job shifts this year.

Most of these forms leave off very important issues. I am the sole provider for my family [...]. [They] still live at home and [are dependent on me]. Because I am employed full time I get knocked in regards to scholarships when, in fact, my income is barely keeping us going and I have to work multiple jobs. Give adults someplace to explain the expectations placed on them by family obligations.

Mum is starting her career-[changing jobs]. She is the income for the family, so our financial ability is going to fluctuate. I hope to get a job on-campus to help out with tuition costs. The money situation is weird right now. (Ahhhh!)

My dad was unemployed last year though, and the figure in not reflective of our current financial situation. However, I am a recipient of [a scholarship], which is going to greatly aid my ability to pay for an Evergreen education next year.

Financial Situation and Financial Aid (N=35)

My family has recently lost the only source of income we had. Now all of us are scrounging for any job we can find. [...] I know many others are in the same position as my self and they have my sympathy, but I'm thankful for the opportunity to continue my education to help my family now and in the future. I only hope I will be able to do so without sacrificing the opportunity. Thank you for all that you have done for me and for many others.

My father is unemployed. Is there any financial aid to help us with tuition because on taxes, it still says my father has a job though he lost this job [last year].

My father owns his own business and had to pay thousands of dollars in taxes which makes me going to school harder, especially because my [sibling's in school] also.

[...] It would be helpful to learn about educational funding for [military dependents].

My mother is a [working] single parent with [dependents]. She owns a car and a house. If not for my GET money, I would have had to take out a considerable loan for my schooling [...].

My parents own a small business and the yearly income is not at all consistent... While one year it may show that they are able to finance my education, the next year may prove that idea entirely false... Scholarships and financial aid are what will determine the extent of my education.

My time in AmeriCorps has afford given me some relief when it comes to paying for school. Currently, my parents are struggling to afford my [sibling's high tuition]. At [traditional college-age] and with my parents stretched thin, it is on me to cover my cost of tuition.

The pairing of your institution with a dysfunctional financial aid system makes it disgustingly difficult for out of state students. While attending Evergreen, which we will because it has the only suitable educational platform around, we will in fact be paying into the state tax system. I assume this is the reason for withholding residency for out of state students who don't want to waste a year of life doing bulls**t labour simply to satiate bureaucrats and their red tape. That financial aid comes from the federal level and so should be distributed evenly, not hoarded discriminantly. Please, with all your funding, you must encourage out of state students, not punish them with debt for doing what is best for their education and future. We bring bright young talented minds to YOUR state. Give us a helping hand up, not a heavy burden to hold us down. Thank you for what you do have to offer us. That we do appreciate immensely.

Would like to have received fin. aid infor. Applied, and Evergreen is the ONLY schol who did NOT send aid info out!!

Non-Resident, Transfer and Non-Traditional Student Issues (N=11)

By biggest current issue is the rate at which your science programs fill and the fact that freshmen get to register before transfer students. I'm transferring from a community college and had to get on the waiting list of the ONLY remaining science class available. Seems like someone who's already put forth the effort and work to gain enough credits to be considered a junior should be given priority over someone who not been in college. I completely lost out on the program that fit my goal perfectly because freshmen were given priority, many of which don't even know what they want to do and are only taking the class because they think it sounds fun.

I feel I haven't gotten very much support from academic advising when it comes to choosing programs/courses that are suitable to my goals. After having a program change its schedule on me, which then conflicted with another course I had signed up for, academic advising pretty much said, "yeah, that's tough". As someone returning to school after [several] years, and new to navigating the Evergreen system, this isn't very helpful advice.

I have noticed that almost everything is designed for the young student who is dependent on parents for money, decisions, etc. And I do understand that is the target audience, the majority of the users of the information and attendees of the school. But as the school has such an excellent program for those people who work, I would love to see some sort of a nod to those who are responsible for their own incomes, school costs, are already part of the Olympia community, etc. Perhaps something as simple as a checklist of the activities at the school that would be recommended for someone like me. Which of all the Welcomes and Brunches and Introductions to Campus should I actually attend?

[I am an independent traditional-aged student without any family support]. This will definitely make my experience different from the majority of Evergreen students, and may (and has already with the Evergreen population) cause snide remarks and other off-putting treatment of myself by the student body, discrimination or misunderstanding, as many people do not understand the type of [...] family situations which can necessitate such a life status. I wish that I could look forward to going into the student body with a slight chance of having more understanding and acceptance, but I have only been rejected and thought to be ungrateful in the past. This will be quite difficult for me to deal with during my time at evergreen.

I'll be [a non-traditional aged], full-time transfer student [...], attempting to move on [...] to my new passion in life, bringing Music Therapy forward as an important field for bettering the health of a science based academic society who demand proof before believing.

Non-Resident, Transfer and Non-Traditional Student Issues (N=11)

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I have not seen much in resources for student who are parents

i am moving to olympia, wa from [the midwest]; although i'm excited, it's a pretty scary move to do all by yourself. maybe there should be more outreach for out of state students.

gaining residency shouldn't be so hard!!

Please offer more evening classes. Also, I have an Associates and Evergreen only took [a limited number of my credits], I am not happy about that and have limited time and funding to receive a Bachelors (2 years)

Discussed the lessening feasibility of evergreen attracting students from out of state (especially amongst diverse social standings), and in state lower income communities, in several different settings with other students.

Academic Offerings and Availability (N=8)

[...] I am concerned about getting into the major course of my choice. I am 6th on the waiting list.

By biggest current issue is the rate at which your science programs fill and the fact that freshmen get to register before transfer students. I'm transferring from a community college and had to get on the waiting list of the ONLY remaining science class available. Seems like someone who's already put forth the effort and work to gain enough credits to be considered a junior should be given priority over someone who not been in college. I completely lost out on the program that fit my goal perfectly because freshmen were given priority, many of which don't even know what they want to do and are only taking the class because they think it sounds fun.

I think Evergreen is a rare and wonderful school with many opportunities for many students, but it is not for everyone. Overall, the one thing that I think could be improved is that the evening and weekend program should be expanded. Many basic and advanced classes and subjects are needed to cover what most consider to be a basic college education. And the flexible time schedules of both day, evening and weekend classes would be of great help to most students trying to accomplish this.

I understand that with all the state budget cuts that some students have had trouble finding sponsors for independent study. Finding a sponsor is a big worry for me. There's nothing that would make attending [large state school] a rewarding experience for me, but I really hope I get to study what I want senior year. I have a super program designed for myself!

I wish the school had more to offer for military history or a connection with ROTC.

Please offer more evening classes. Also, I have an Associates and Evergreen only took [a limited number of my credits], I am not happy about that and have limited time and funding to receive a Bachelors (2 years)

where's the music? the college needs a more robust music program...some lab bands or similar?

With my interest in art, there have been classes that have interested me over the last couple of years. I read the catalog online to investigate. I have a friend who was very pleased with the quality of education she received at Evergreen [...]. But most importantly I can study weekends and evenings as well as independently [...]. I'm a very self-directed worker, and believe my work at Evergreen will lead to obtaining a gallery in which to show my art, as well as the opportunity to get an MFA. I wish Evergreen would offer an MFA program!

Thank You - General (N=7)

thank you! (N=3)

Thanks! (N=3)

Thank you guys (:

Faculty/Staff (N=4)

I feel I haven't gotten very much support from academic advising when it comes to choosing programs/courses that are suitable to my goals. After having a program change its schedule on me, which then conflicted with another course I had signed up for, academic advising pretty much said, "yeah, that's tough". As someone returning to school after [several] years, and new to navigating the Evergreen system, this isn't very helpful advice.

I LOVE EVERGREEN!! STAFF IS VERY HELPFUL!

Faculty/Staff (N=4)

None of the professors I called or emailed about the program I was intending to take returned my attempts to reach them. I tried to get ahold of at least three professors about a very important question by leaving several voicemails and multiple emails over the course of the week. Never heard back from anyone. I thought that was kind of ridiculous, considering the very large number of attempts I made to contact them.

Rafael, VA Counselor, is great!!

Student Activities and Campus Life (N=3)

I have noticed that almost everything is designed for the young student who is dependent on parents for money, decisions, etc. And I do understand that is the target audience, the majority of the users of the information and attendees of the school. But as the school has such an excellent program for those people who work, I would love to see some sort of a nod to those who are responsible for their own incomes, school costs, are already part of the Olympia community, etc. Perhaps something as simple as a checklist of the activities at the school that would be recommended for someone like me. Which of all the Welcomes and Brunches and Introductions to Campus should I actually attend?

I am uber excited about coming to Evergreen. I am a bit disturbed by the vast amounts of E-Mails I have received in the last few months that all in one way or another pertain to hate crimes. Cars vandalized, walls painted on, forums getting hateful messages posted, multiple protests that lean towards the extremists points of views. I have always heard and thought of Evergreen as an understanding place where people accept and embrace differences in one another. I really hope these incidents are not the norm here. I really don't want people yelling at me with pictures of aborted fetuses, simply because I am walking to class. I don't want my car broken into if I support my friends in the military. Can I feel safe, or is Evergreen so liberal that the people giving the school a bad name will keep on damaging the reputation of the school.

Interested in outdoor groups but dont know where to find them if they exist. maybe at the Fall Activities Fair?

:)/ <3 (N=3)

<3

(:

<3 (:

Residential and Dining Services (N=2)

Need more meal plan optionsm wuth that you can points could account for more than 2 meals a day

Would like information on other housing options

Survey Comments (N=20)

[Comments and suggestions about survey itself]

Other (N=9)

Green Campus Sustainability

Hello!

I like having the option of filling out all/most of my forms via the web. Well done!

Keep up the good work buckos.

mmm...yes...

RAWR

Seriously, don't tase people. it's cruel and potentially lethal.

Thank you Evergreen for not requiring me to complete any math or foreign language classes before accepting me or awarding a degree - it made a big difference in my decision to go back to school.

The cake is a lie [repeated]
