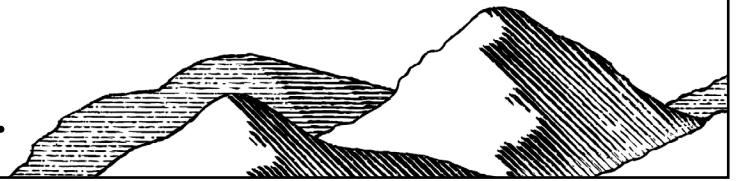


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WRITING ACADEMIC STATEMENTS

NANCY KOPPELMAN

Several years ago, Evergreen began to regularly review and assess student transcripts for evidence of breadth and depth of learning in the liberal arts. Those reviews yielded the insight that students would benefit from more regular, focused academic advising, led by faculty and grounded in academic structures already in place at the college. The faculty voted to institute a new graduation requirement that will begin for incoming students in fall 2013. Students will be required to include in their final transcripts an Academic Statement about their college educations.

Because the most prominent academic structure at the college is the full-time or half-time interdisciplinary program, the faculty decided to create an ongoing process of advising and mentorship in programs, and introduce a new way to support reflection, self-evaluation, and decision-making throughout students' academic careers at Evergreen, culminating in the final Academic Statement.

Beginning with a campus-wide pilot program in fall of 2012, many Evergreen programs will offer more structured and regular advising opportunities throughout the school year. These opportunities include several activities during Orientation Week led by faculty, program time devoted to developing Academic Statements, two all-campus events in winter and spring during which all faculty are available on campus for student advising, and substantial review of Academic Statements for graduating seniors. This initiative will become a campus-wide effort in fall 2013.