

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

College Relations and Development  
February 14, 1984

TO: Jan Lambertz  
FROM: Steve Hunter *SH*  
RE: Retention of Students Participating in  
Intercollegiate Athletics

Interest has been expressed in a comparison of retention rates between athletes and nonathletes. Retention literature suggests that as a student's involvement in campus life increases the likelihood of retention also increases. Participation in intercollegiate athletics is one way that students can increase their involvement with the campus. In fact, athletics is one of comparatively few extracurricular organizations at Evergreen. If that hypothesis holds true with regard to athletic participation at Evergreen, our athletes should be retained at a higher rate than nonathletes.

Fall to fall retention rates of athletes participating in intercollegiate sports were compared with the retention of the remainder of the student body from fall 1982 to fall 1983. The retention rate of athletes was 16 percentage points above that of nonathletes: 82% compared with 66%. When retention rates were computed according to whether a student was new to Evergreen fall '82 or a continuing student, the differential for new students was 13 percentage points: New athlete retention to Fall '83-75%; New nonathlete retention to Fall '83-62%. The differential for continuing students remained 16%.

Retention statistics are presented below:

	Retention Rates: Fall 1982 to Fall 1983		
	<u>New Fall '82</u>	<u>Cont. Fall '82</u>	<u>Total</u>
Athletes:			
N	20	47	67
% retained	75%	85%	82%
Nonathletes:			
N	818	1410	2228
% retained	62%	69%	66%

In this analysis of retention rates, participation in intercollegiate athletics is associated with higher retention.

cc: Sue Washburn  
Patrick Hill