

ROUGH DRAFT

The Evergreen State College is designed to provide students with an innovative approach to higher education. By way of introduction to Evergreen, below are some important aspects of the learning experiences along with some pertinent questions relating to your needs. In order that we may be able to better assist and advise you in your educational endeavors while attending Evergreen, it would be most helpful if you would answer these questions and forward this supplemental application to:

Admissions Office
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

PLANNING YOUR STUDIES AT EVERGREEN

The college's unique interdisciplinary focus allows students over a four-year period to develop combinations of subjects not available in traditional majors. Though a student does not declare a major at Evergreen, in order to take advantage of a wide variety of learning opportunities, carefully planning and goal-setting by students are a necessity. Faculty and other support staff are ready to help a student with this task, however in the end only you as a student can decide where and what direction you would like your education to go. The earlier your goals are developed, the more direction your educational endeavors will have.

CURRICULAR DEFINITIONS AND MODES OF LEARNING

Most college catalogs and bulletins list numerous courses which are repeated yearly. These are grouped under broad headings (usually called "divisions") and are further subdivided into "disciplines" or "major fields". Students normally take four or five courses at one time, some in a single major field, some outside.

We use a simpler scheme at Evergreen. Most students enroll in a single program each quarter, rather than just signing up for a number of courses. And the programs fall into just three classifications: (1) Coordinated Studies, (2) Group Contracts, and (3) Individual Contracts.

COORDINATED STUDY: A group of faculty (three to five) and students (usually 60 to 100) studying a common theme or problem together using ideas and materials from several "major fields" (disciplines). Coordinated Studies are offered at both Basic and Advanced levels.

GROUP CONTRACT: A smaller type of program, usually one or two faculty with, at most, 25 to 45 students, involving in-depth study of a single topic. As a rule, only one or two "major fields" (disciplines) are involved - depending on the educational background of the faculty members. Group Contracts involve work at an advanced or intermediate college level.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRACT: A negotiated agreement between a single student and a faculty member for a fixed period of study, normally one quarter. Learning goals and methods of evaluation of the student's work are spelled out explicitly in a written contract worked out in advance. In general, individual contract work is intended to be advanced and specialized.

For full-time students, any of these three "modes" requires a full-time commitment. Students do not take four or five different, unrelated subjects at once. The basic idea at Evergreen is to combine subjects in a meaningful way.

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MODULES: In addition to the three major modes of study - Coordinated Studies, Group Contracts and Individual Contracts - Evergreen also offers an array of late afternoon and evening courses called modules. Credit given for a module equals one-fourth of a full-time load (that is, one Evergreen unit equals four quarter credits). These courses are designed primarily for part-time students. Full-time students may enroll in a module provided they obtain the approval of the faculty who supervise their Coordinated Study, Group Contract, or Individual Contract work.

EVALUATION & Portfolio

More important than the amount of credit you receive and the assurance that you are in good academic standing will be the evaluations you receive of your performance. Within a Coordinated Studies program, you will be constantly evaluated and tested by your seminar leader in individual conferences and through comments on the assigned work you turn in. You will test your own mastery of learning program concepts and will be tested by your faculty team for other kinds of skills and knowledge. You will be continually engaged in mutual critiques with the other members of your seminar and of the Coordinated Studies group and perhaps even face the criticism of a larger audience if your work leads to a performance, a publication, or an exhibition. In a group learning contract, you will also face continual evaluation by your teammates. In any contract, your work will be carefully scrutinized by your sponsor and any subcontractors who may be involved, on or off campus. Because you will not be competing for grades, critical evaluations by your teammates and faculty will be directed toward helping you, not toward standardized comparisons.

PORTFOLIO

We report credit and evaluations only once during a program/contract - at the end. When you go on a leave of absence, withdraw, or change programs during the year, it will be necessary to request a report of credit and an evaluation for the time spent in a program.

Portfolio - maintained by you and includes:

1. The official description of the program or contract for all work attempted.
2. Descriptions and copies of faculty evaluations of all work attempted.
3. Student self-evaluations, including those not for the Transcript.
4. Polished and edited work judged by you as worthy of inclusion. Not all work should be included.
5. ~~Registration copies~~, records of interview, petitions for leave, and anything else that will help create your academic biography.

Your portfolio enables you to share relevant information with our faculty during interviews. It is also a tool for use during interviews off campus for graduate schools or employment.

In addition to the above, the college provides each student