

SPECIAL TO THE SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL
Summer Travel Edition

The Evergreen State College, Olympia, opened in 1971 as the newest of Washington's public four-year institutions of higher learning. The college's enrollment for the 1976-77 academic year will average about 2500 undergraduates per quarter. Faculty strength will total about 130 from the broad categories of natural sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and arts.

Evergreen's instructional program -- emphasizing an institutional flexibility geared to the academic, personal and career interests of individual students -- provides a new option for higher learning in this time of rapid and massive social and technological change.

The college provides a learning climate which encourages students to develop such highly-prized attributes as the ability to identify and solve problems, communication skills, the capacity for working within groups, and self-reliance.

At a practical level, Evergreen's programs are designed so that students may gain needed perspective through participation in interdisciplinary studies, while developing useful skills related to their interests and specialties.

Team-taught coordinated studies programs form the core of the college's curriculum. These programs combine insights from several subjects in a problem-solving approach to learning. Usually, four instructors with varied academic backgrounds work with about 80 students, providing different viewpoints on the problems being studied.

Instead of studying subjects such as sociology, economics, psychology, biology, and art -- for example -- as separate unrelated disciplines, these integrated teams put the various academic disciplines in a single focus to see how they connect and how they match up with real problems.

Members of the coordinated studies groups spend full time in their teams, each of them participating in lectures, seminars, field studies, individual projects, reading and writing assignments.

Coordinated studies feature basic introductory programs, advanced programs, and divisional programs which emphasize learning within such broad categories as natural science, social science, humanities, or art.

Evergreen's other credit-generating option -- contracted studies -- falls into both group and individual categories. Group contracts -- generally focusing on specific subject matter -- involve one faculty member and up to 20 students. Individual contracts -- negotiated between a single student and a faculty or other academic sponsor -- allow maximum personal focus on specific academic or career interests.

Through contracted studies, credits may be earned in a variety of ways -- carrying out an investigation, mastering a skill or set of skills, attacking a problem, creating a piece of work, or studying a specific body of subject matter. Each contract carries different objectives and methods to be used, so that the experience is always tailored to the needs of the individual or a small group of students.

Evergreen also offers numerous courses, each running for one quarter and providing students with additional opportunities for skills acquisition or learning of basic materials in specific subject areas.

Most Evergreen students--primarily juniors and seniors--augment their classroom work with internships, where they earn academic credit while gaining practical working experiences through on-the-job placements in a wide variety of businesses, educational, professional, governmental, and social service agencies.

Evergreen's 1000-acre campus, which includes 3,300 feet of undeveloped waterfront on Eld Inlet of Lower Puget Sound, is located in a wooded area of rolling hills on the Cooper Point Peninsula, five miles northwest of downtown Olympia and within easy driving distance of the freeway system serving Mason and Thurston Counties.

Physical facilities include the Library building, which houses classrooms and offices as well as library and audio-visual operations; Residence Halls and Modular Housing units for 602 students; a Lecture Halls building containing five small auditoriums; College Activities building; Science and Art Laboratory building; Recreation Center; and Seminar

building containing classrooms and administrative and faculty offices.

Work is nearing completion on a new Communications Laboratory.

Campus parking is provided without charge. Public visits are welcome during regular operating hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays during summer quarter. Although guided campus tours are not possible because of staff limitations, visitors may obtain general information and campus maps from the College Information Center, housed on the main floor of the activities building.