

NEWS

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

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for further information
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When more than 300 seniors return to The Evergreen State College campus this fall for their final year of college, an expanded and active placement service will be ready to help them prepare for the world beyond graduation.

Heading up the expanded effort is Financial Aid and Placement Counselor Gail Martin, a former Evergreen faculty member, who sees part of her role as one of "helping students learn how to find jobs, not finding jobs for them."

"This will not be the last time these students will have to look for jobs," she explains. "I feel it's of utmost importance to teach them job search skills now which they will be able to use again and again as their careers develop."

To aid students in development of those skills, Mrs. Martin will offer a series of senior seminars which will focus on such topics as resume writing, interview techniques, and career preference self-analysis.

"As they select their careers, students need to analyze the kind of life styles they want and the long range goals which are important to them," she said. "We work closely with the Counseling Center to help students with this self analysis so that they can go after the job which will enable them to reach their lifetime goals."

To provide information on available jobs, Mrs. Martin is opening a career resource center later this month which will provide information and materials on a wide variety of vocations, current job forecasting predictions, and data on graduate school placement.

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Dick Nichols, Director
Information Services

Throughout the year she and the entire placement staff will also be working with Evergreen's faculty to help make students more aware of career concerns.

As Les Eldridge, director of Financial Aid and Placement, explains, "The college is trying to avoid crisis career counseling in the senior year. We strive to bring students into the counseling office shortly after they come to Evergreen so they can begin thinking about the varieties of careers available to them."

"In addition," he said, "Staff Member Helena Knapp, who concentrates on career and graduate school counseling, encourages students to think about designing academic programs that will take advantage of the range of career exploration possibilities available to them at Evergreen. In this way, we can help students collect more data on themselves and realistically evaluate the careers most suited to them."

This kind of "realistic evaluation" is enhanced through Evergreen's Office of Cooperative Education, which coordinates the placement of students in a wide variety of internships with business, industry, the professions and governmental, and social agencies. Such internships give students an opportunity to explore various careers through actual work on the job. In this way students can experience the demands of a job they may be considering and test their skills in the real world of work."

The Co-op Office, directed by Ken Donohue, is part of Evergreen's formal academic program and works closely with the college faculty, counseling, and placement services to maximize student opportunities for career exploration.

Internship experiences, Eldridge feels, give Evergreen graduates potentially strong entries into the job market.

"We are one of the first colleges in the nation to offer credit for cooperative education experiences in all academic areas," he said. "And, potential employers know our graduates have developed skills through practical internship experiences while simultaneously acquiring the necessary academic background."

The interdisciplinary nature of Evergreen's curriculum and its flexibility in allowing students to focus on narrow areas in their senior year after building a broad base of knowledge also gives Evergreen graduates an edge in the job market, according to Eldridge.

"Many employers are seeking generalists who yet have the ability to identify and solve specific problems," he said. "They want employees who can work independently, are self starters and have self discipline. Evergreen's academic programs demand development of these traits."

In an increasingly tight job market, Eldridge and Mrs. Martin feel confident that those traits, plus the ability to use job searching skills, will make the difference for Evergreen graduates.