LOCATION/TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Where is The Evergreen State College?
Evergreen is located in Olympia, Washington, fifty miles south of the Seattle-Tacoma airport. The drive on I-5 from the airport to Evergreen can take as little time as one hour, or as much as three hours, depending on traffic. Please plan on at least two hours traveling time.

The campus is about six miles from downtown Olympia and three miles from grocery stores and pharmacies. If you do not have a car, there is regular bus service to town.

How do I get to Evergreen from the airport?
For those traveling by car, we will post directions on our website by April 30th.

If you don’t plan to rent a car, the Capital Aeroporter (www.capair.com) provides transportation between the airport and Evergreen. Your drop-off point will be A-Dorm. This is listed as TESC (A-Dorm) on the Capital Aeroporter website. Make sure to tell Capital Aeroporter that you are with the National Summer Institute on Learning Communities to get our group rate.

What will the weather be like?
July is an unpredictable month in the Pacific Northwest. It can be cloudy and cool (50° at night) with showers, or the weather could be warm and dry (high 70s to low 80s in the daytime). We suggest checking www.weather.com, and bringing a range of clothing for warm and cool weather, including a jacket.

When do we need to arrive?
Institute registration opens at noon on Monday, July 15th. Team members need to arrive by 2:00 pm so everyone has an opportunity to get settled in their rooms, review the institute materials, and participate in an Evergreen-style seminar from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. The opening reception and dinner, where the overall goals of the institute and structure for the week will be presented, will begin at 5:00 pm. Housing is available for Sunday night, July 14th, if arriving the night before is a better option for your team.

When does the institute end?
The institute ends with presentations and a dinner (6:00-8:00pm) on Thursday evening, July 18th. All teams should stay and participate in these closing activities. Thursday night housing and a Friday morning continental breakfast are included in your registration fee.

What if I arrive early?
If you are not staying on campus Sunday night, your room will not be ready until noon on Monday. You are welcome to drop your bags off at the Guest Services office and take a trip downtown or explore the campus before the seminar begins.

What if I arrive late?
The Summer Guest Services office in the dorms will remain open until 11:00 pm. If you arrive in time, please join us for dinner. If you arrive later than 11:00 pm, contact Police Services at 360.867.6832 and they will assist you with checking in.
What is the campus like?
The Evergreen State College is situated on 1,000 mostly forested acres, including 3,300 feet of beach on the Puget Sound. There are lots of walking trails; we will provide maps for them as well as a map of downtown Olympia. During the institute, some walking is required—approximately 10 minutes to get from the dorms to the institute meeting rooms, and 5 minutes to get from the meeting rooms to the dining hall on mostly flat terrain. Please let us know if you have any mobility issues that would make this difficult for you.

Are there places to get coffee, eat, and buy essential items on campus?
The Market is Evergreen’s deli, serving burritos, pizza by the slice, salads, sandwiches, fruit, chips, espresso, baked goods, soda, and juices. The market is open for breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. There are no food services available on Sunday.

The Housing Community Center (HCC) has a microwave, big screen TV, laundry facilities, vending machines and an ATM. The building is open until 11:00 pm. Coffee and tea are available Monday through Thursday at 6:30 am. A continental breakfast, with coffee and tea, will be served on Friday morning between 6:00 and 10:30 am.

The bookstore, open Monday through Friday, stocks basic toiletries and snacks, gifts. The Corner Store, in the dorms, is also open Monday through Friday and has some food items, toiletries, first aid supplies and more.

If you arrive on Sunday, we will be distributing information about stores and restaurants in Olympia, including those that deliver.

How far is it to a store?
It is approximately three miles to drug stores and grocery stores. A city bus leaves regularly from the campus to go to downtown Olympia and a local shopping mall. Some toiletries, snacks, and over-the-counter medications are available on campus.

How can people get in touch with me?
Family, friends, and co-workers can leave messages for you at the Summer Guest Services office (360.867.6199). This office is staffed between 6:00 am and 11:00 pm PST each day. In case of an emergency, people may call Campus Security/Police Services at 360.867.6832.

THE INSTITUTE

How is the institute organized?
The overall goal of the institute is to give campus teams the information, resources, and planning time they need to develop an action plan for starting or strengthening learning communities at their institution. At the institute, your team will be part of a cohort group with two to three other teams who are working on similar issues. Resource faculty will be assigned to your cohort who will support your work throughout the week. On the last day of the institute, each team will present its action plan to cohort colleagues and resource faculty for their comments and recommendations.

The sessions for each day are a mixture of presentations, workshops, and team planning time geared to sections of your action plan. Teams will turn in sections of their plan during the institute to get feedback from their assigned resource faculty. Teams can also organize meetings with other resource faculty and Washington Center co-directors.
**Who are the resource faculty we will be working with?**
The Washington Center has a network of resource faculty from across the country who have decades of experience in learning communities. Based on the information you have provided about your campus and your goals, we will select resource faculty to work with your team. You can get an idea of the skills and experience our resource faculty has a group have by looking at the rosters from past institutes on our website at [http://www.evergreen.edu/washingtoncenter/institute/pastinstitutes.html](http://www.evergreen.edu/washingtoncenter/institute/pastinstitutes.html).

**What's the dress code?**
Dress for the institute is casual. Most of all, we want you to be comfortable. In particular, you’ll need comfortable shoes for walking around campus. At local restaurants informal attire is generally appropriate—slacks, jeans, and casual skirts and dresses. Remember to bring a sweater or jacket, since the weather may be cool and rain is always a possibility!

**THE FACILITIES**

**What is the housing like?**
Evergreen’s student dorms are apartment-style. You will most likely be sharing an apartment with three other people. Furnishings are simple. Each person has their own small private bedroom, with a shared living area. The bathroom has two sinks in a common space, and separate rooms for the bathtub/shower and the toilet. TVs, radios, clocks, and bedside reading lamps are not provided. There is however, a TV in the Housing Community Center for your use. Coffee will be served approximately half an hour before breakfast in the dining hall. You will have access to a gym on weekdays. It is not possible to accommodate spouses or children in campus housing.

**What do I need to bring?**
We appreciate that many of you have not stayed in student housing for a long time. Evergreen’s apartments include the basics but they lack amenities. Linens and towels are provided. You may want to bring a bath-size towel to supplement the lightweight towels available. You might also want to bring an alarm clock, a book light, an extra pillow, and any other creature comforts you need to be content.

**Are other accommodations available?**
If you find you need to stay off campus, visit a website like [http://www.allstays.com/us-washington-hotels/olympia-hotels.htm](http://www.allstays.com/us-washington-hotels/olympia-hotels.htm) to find recommendations for the Olympia area.

Since this is an intensive institute—plenary sessions begin at 8:15 each morning and work sessions often run into the evening hours—participants find it most convenient to stay on campus. Participant fees are $1,290 per person, regardless of whether you use the campus housing that is provided in this fee or stay off-campus.