

Student Originated Software 2003-2004 Student Questionnaire

<http://www.evergreen.edu/sos>

Before registering for SOS, you need to complete this questionnaire. If you have trouble understanding a particular question, do your best to interpret it, briefly stating what interpretation you assume. Whether you will learn from and succeed in the program depends on your motivation and ability to contribute effectively to a year-long *group* software development project. This questionnaire is as much a tool for helping you determine if SOS is the right program for you as it is an "entrance exam".

Prerequisites for SOS are **(1)** motivation to complete a year-long group software project, **and (2)** the Evergreen program *Data to Information* or *Computability and Cognition* or equivalent (many 2-year college programs in Computer Science suffice). For **(2)**, exceptional students may substitute significant background in the sciences or arts, and expertise programming and using software applications such as MacroMedia Director, Access or Excel.

You might read the SOS program description and list of past SOS projects before completing the questionnaire. SOS is an exciting program and we're looking forward to working with you!

Include on your responses (at the top of the first page, **your full name and student ID**). Please keep responses to two pages or less, not including the example of your work (7 below). If at all possible "word-process" or type this since presentation matters.

1. Briefly describe your expertise and experience using computers, in programming, computer science, mathematics, the arts and sciences, etc.. Indicate whether you believe you have the equivalent of *Data to Information*, i.e., introductory programming, data structures, digital logic, architecture, discrete math, and operating systems (optional). We suggest you attach an unofficial transcript or list of courses you have taken.
2. Describe one or two experiences you have had working in groups. What role would you see yourself playing on a software development team?
3. Briefly describe 2-3 innovations in computing (specifically in computer architecture, operating systems or programming languages) that effect programmer productivity or power. Articulate what impact each has had on today's software. Avoid socio-political-cultural issues.
4. Articulate one significant technical barrier to today's software engineers.
5. What is your understanding of what you will do in SOS and why do you want to take this program?
6. Do you intend to stay in the program all three quarters?
7. Please attach or send (or have sent) via email:
 - a. one or two samples of a program you have written. We will return this to you, and it is confidential. For the sample(s) of your programming, indicate whether it is your individual work, or part of a group effort. If the latter, please indicate what your role was in the development of the program(s).
 - b. a copy of a faculty evaluation from a relevant program (if you are an Evergreen student) OR a letter of recommendation from a teacher or supervisor in a relevant field.

Bring your responses to the spring or fall Academic Fair, and faculty will read it on the spot. Alternatively, you can mail or e-mail your questionnaire, and we will e-mail a response. You will typically receive this within one or two weeks. If you want the response to this questionnaire mailed, please include a self-addressed envelope. If email is ok, specify your email address.

Judith Bayard Cushing, LAB I Fax: 360-866-6794. judvc@evergreen.edu	Sherri Shulman, SEM Fax: 360-867-6553. sherri@evergreen.edu
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