

# Gateways: Popular Education & Political Economy

## 2009-10 Program Application (sophomores or above—transfer students welcome)

**Note:** This application is designed to give you a chance to talk about yourself and your interest in the program. A key goal in Gateways next year will be to put together the best possible team that will enable each of our individual learning, the learning of the incarcerated students, our collective learning and the growth and stability of the program. Some of the key things we will need from program participants will be the commitment and ability to: work collaboratively and cooperatively, be accountable to the group and the program, attend all class meetings, take advantage of each learning opportunity, and rise to the challenges we will encounter. This application isn't a test, but please read and respond to it thoughtfully and completely, but above all earnestly and genuinely. Type your answers to these questions and return them to the Program Secretary in Sem2 A2117 or email them to me directly. Applications received before the Academic Fair, May 13, 2009, will be given priority. As I receive applications, I will schedule interview conversations with you—preferably at the Academic Fair. If you cannot make it to the Academic Fair, I will try to make other arrangements with you. Thank you, Tony Zaragoza <zaragozt@evergreen.edu>.

1. How did you hear about Gateways and what do you know about it?
2. Gateways takes as a fundamental principle that every person has talents they have developed throughout their lives. Tell us a little about your talents.
3. In Gateways, it is our job to encourage each other to search out and find our passions and gifts. What do you think are some ways of drawing out the passions and gifts of others?
4. Our work is guided by ideas of popular education. This means we base our work on the knowledge, experiences, and talents of all participants while also building on this knowledge using the knowledge of others. We each know a lot about education given our many years of experience in learning. Please tell us about some of your key learning experiences.
5. In the process of collectively shaping the Gateways seminar, students will work on designing, implementing and assessing our work and organizing productive meetings while also working through conflict. What have been some group projects or activities you are proud of? What are some mistakes you have made in group projects that you have learned from?
6. U.S. society today has been shaped and influenced by human struggles seeking equality and justice: civil rights movements, women's movements, labor movements, global social justice movements against for economic equality. Throughout our work we will read, discuss and learn about exploitation and oppression, while exploring cultural diversity and continually working to foster a space committed to equality. Based on your experiences within this country and world, why is participating in the Gateways Program important for you?
7. We hear words like diversity, multi-cultural, poly-cultural, ethnicity, race, melting pot, mosaic and even apartheid used to describe the U.S. In addition to the rich culture and history of Native Americans, the inhabitants of the U.S. have come from all over the world. Whether that movement took place long ago or recently, or was by choice or not, it is this diversity of Immigrant, African and Indigenous that has built, enhanced and strengthened U.S. culture and experience. What has multi-cultural meant for you and your family's identity and/or experience?
8. List some books or readings you would like to recommend for the program. (I can't guarantee we'll use the readings you recommend, but I will make a list of them to share with the program.)