

Results of 2023 Grays Harbor College Listening Session Survey

June 2023



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Grays Harbor College

In order to productively engage with equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) issues, it is important to have a shared understanding of the language that we use. The Diversity Advisory Committee developed a glossary of Diversity Definitions during the 2021 academic year. To access this glossary, please visit <https://www.ghc.edu/edi/diversity-definitions>.

General statistics about the college, including the Fast Facts 1-pager, can be found at <https://www.ghc.edu/facts-and-statistics>.

Additional information is available to college employees on the IECR intranet page at <https://intranet.ghc.edu/departments/iecr>.

Survey Responses from June 2023

Listening Sessions

Listening sessions were held in spring 2023 to gather input on student experiences around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

A survey was made available to gather input from students who were not able to attend the sessions. This document contains the responses to that survey.

Five students responded to the survey. This is a very small number of responses. While these responses reflect the experience of these students, information in this report should only be used in conjunction with the larger data set gathered from the listening sessions.

All write-in answers have been put in a randomized order, and are presented as they were written by the respondent. Spelling and grammar have not been corrected.

One word substitution has been made, where a person's name was given, but believed to be an autocorrect error. This is noted by square brackets: [Substitution].

Q1) Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are an important part of my college experience.

Response	Count
Strongly Agree	1
Agree	2
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	1
Don't know	1

Q2) Does GHC support a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging?

Response	Count
Strongly Agree	2
Agree	2
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	1
Don't know	0

Q3) From your perspective, in what ways does GHC support a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging?

Responses
GHC has a variety of programs and supports people, especially, in my experience, people who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community and with special needs.
By treating everyone equally.
GHC supports the Christian the LGBTQ, the foreigner, the American. You do not place one group above another. You care about your students and that includes all of the students. There are different types of entertainment, studies, help or resources that it's available to anyone who reaches out for help. Plus every employee that I have ever found at GHC truly cares about how people are doing. If they see you're having a bad day they'll stop and help even if all they can do is say hi what's going on. [GHC] ¹ is also good about having different places a student can go to find safety, comfort or just a quiet place to study.
plenty of opportunities for everyone to have options on speaking to all staff at anytime with any questions
There's good workshops and policy statements, and the BAS -TE program really emphasizes its importance.

Q4) I have personally experienced prejudice or discrimination at GHC.

Response	Count
Yes	3
No	2
Unsure	0

Q5) I have witnessed prejudice or discrimination at GHC.

Response	Count
Yes	3
No	2
Unsure	0

¹ [GHC] is a correction of a proper name that did not make sense in context. Original wording was in the form of "Bob's is also good about..." only it was a different name than Bob. Potentially an auto-correct of "GHC".

Q6) In what ways have you witnessed or experienced prejudice or discrimination at GHC?

Responses
<p>I had a fellow student in one of my classes who would say very homophobic and transphobic things in class. Which was upsetting as someone part of the LGBTQIA+ community.</p>
<p>I put an encouraging note on a white board for myself for my classmates. It said on the board for a while without bothering anybody but then one day it had a swear word of the female dog scribbled over it. When I erased the swear word, a verse from a satanic bible was put up in its place. I tried explaining why the encouragement meant what it meant to me but there was still another comment the next day. I finally took down the my encouragement just to avoid an argument with an unknown being, yes I don't know who was writing this.</p>
<p>The other time I witnessed prejudice was in 2019. I went to a queer speaker at the diversity and equity center that time and they spoke about things like an anatomically correct vagina costume and other things similar to that. Somebody in the audience got up and left the room but when that happened the speaker started making jokes about how if you mention anything personal or private, conservative or religious people just can't handle it. The person who left the room did so quietly they did not disturb anyone. I think it was unnecessary for the speaker to make the comments she made and not very respectful or tolerant of other beliefs.</p>
<p>I do want to say though that in neither of these cases that I've mentioned were the staff at GHC at fault. I think the first one came from a student probably and the second came from a speaker from out of state. I have never seen the staff of Grays Harbor college ever discriminate or use prejudice against anyone.</p>
<p>In my freshman year I have had a disability advisor tell me I should reconsider a career in teaching due to my physical disability. This person was dismissed.</p>
<p>I have seen classmates with ADHD be reprimanded for self-stimulating behaviors that were not disruptive.</p>
<p>I have been uncomfortably pressured by the current AccessAbility services director to sue schools or businesses for experiencing inaccessibility in these facilities. I emailed her and she addressed it.</p>
<p>Many places at GHC have very poor accessibility, including the Bishop Center. No classrooms have automatic doors.</p>

Q7) Courses provide opportunities for me to learn about cultures, backgrounds, and experiences different from my own?

Response	Count
Strongly Agree	2
Agree	3
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	0

Q8) To what extent do your courses provide opportunities for you to learn about cultures, backgrounds, and experiences different from your own?

Responses
Lots of ways in the nursing program we were able to actually meet with Japanese nursing students that was really cool! Plus there are so many students on campus I've seen Irish, English, Philippine, Mexican and I don't even know all the others. You can meet all kinds of people in backgrounds on campus.
Assignments, discussions, activities. They were very comprehensive but never covered queer or gender-expansive experiences, just race, ethnicity, socioeconomic circumstances, etc. Issues in special ed were covered but not really disabled people as a class or misogyny as a system of oppression. The lack of discussions or content about inclusivity as it relates to LGBT students was very noticeably lacking.
The courses I have taken have provided ample information about cultures different from my own.
GHC has a vast amount of different classes, some that specifically cater to learning about different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Such as Spanish, or even our Gender in Literature or Human Sexuality courses.
the course I am currently taking does not offer learning about cultures backgrounds, and experiences different from my own.

Q9) To what extent do you agree with the statement: I feel a sense of belonging at Grays Harbor College.

Response	Count
Strongly Agree	2
Agree	2
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	1

Q10) Why did you choose the answer you did to question 9?

Responses
My class is online and there is not a lot of interaction.
I selected my answer of "strongly agree" because I have been welcomed at GHC and the culture fosters a sense of belonging.
Because GHC has always been kind to me. They've given me a home when I couldn't return to my own home because it was too far away and I needed to study. Grays Harbor college is even provided me with a job application and I absolutely love the people there!
My cohort is nice and my professors are welcoming.
Outside of very select circumstances, I have felt very welcomed and appreciated at GHC. Everyone I meet is very kind and accepting, both staff and students.

Q11) What could the college do to improve the climate of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at GHC?

Responses
I don't think anything! One wish I would have if it could ever happen, would be to create a universal room dedicated for prayer. I saw a room like that and another college and they had rules that had it set up for all faiths all religions and practices. That way it didn't discriminate it for one particular religion or another. It was quiet in there had a spot for candles or electric ones actually. They respected diversity because they had people remove their shoes because there are people who worship without their shoes on. I thought it was such a nice idea some place to take care of some of the stress.
Given that, it's June and some previous experiences I've had with students. I would love to see events held to support members of the LGBTQIA+ community.
Have ALL classes to be in person and not on-line.
Make learning about gender/sex and sexuality-related identity part of the BAS curriculum when addressing diversity
Create a forum for students to discuss structural accessibility and ableism at the college

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