

Spring Semester 2020 Student Assessment Day Report

Summary:

The original plans for Student Assessment Week Spring 2020 had to be modified to accommodate the Emergency Remote Instruction environment Simmons College of Kentucky adopted following our Spring Break week. In-person data collection was set aside in favor of a social-media platform (Wufoo.com) based approach. Focus group interviews will be resumed when it is safe to do so.

Methodologically, spring 2020 survey return rates were improved over 2019 rates (2019=19/40 usable returns; 2020=30/31 usable returns).

Students were asked to about their experience coping with the COVID-19 changes this semester. Results are as follows:

How well do you feel **other students** handled the COVID-19 changes?

Well= 40% OK= 47% Poorly= 13%

How well do you feel **faculty** handled the COVID-19 changes?

Well= 67% OK= 30% Poorly= 3%

How well do you feel **administration** handled the COVID-19 changes?

Well= 57% OK= 40% Poorly= 3%

How well do you feel **you** handled the COVID-19 changes?

Well= 67% OK= 23% Poorly= 10%

According to student self-reports, 90% of Simmons students reported handling this semester's COVID-19 changes "well" or "ok." Students had high marks for faculty and administration's handling of the COVID-19 changes, with 97% reporting that they handled the changes "well" or "ok."

Instruments included in appendices A and B were administered to provide self-reporting baselines for Institutional Learning Outcomes 2, 3, and 4. Those ILOs are:

ILO2 To cultivate students committed to personal and professional excellence, the holistic development of the self, and lifelong learning.

ILO3 To develop in every student a view of life, vocation, and the world rooted in biblical interpretation and the Kingdom of God.

ILO4 To produce distinguished agents of change committed to community development, social justice, and civic duty, particularly in urban churches and urban communities.

Institutional Learning Objective (ILO) Responses

ILO 2 Responses

Lifelong Learning

Initiative Scale (Composite Score)

3.89 / 5.00 77.8%

Curiosity & Exploration (Composite)

Subscale: Stretching 4.03 / 5.00 80.6%

(motivation to seek out the novel)

Subscale: Embracing 3.33 / 5.00 66.6%

(willingness to embrace the novel)

Lifelong Learning

3.61 / 5.00 72.2%

ILO3 Responses

As a part of the Simmons learning community, I have had the opportunity to **participate in activities** that...

Promote justice	never	sometimes	often
	7%	33%	60%
Promote responsible stewardship	never	sometimes	often
	7%	37%	56%
Promote my personal identity	never	sometimes	often
	7%	33%	60%

As a part of the Simmons learning community, I have grown in my **understanding** of...

Justice	none	some	a lot	greatly
	3%	20%	37%	40%

Responsible stewardship	none	some	a lot	greatly
	3%	23%	34%	40%

My personal identity	none	some	a lot	greatly
	3%	13%	20%	64%

My participation in the Simmons learning community helped me to become...

Hopeful	More	Same	Less
	73%	24%	3%

Compassionate	More	Same	Less
	73%	27%	0%

Affirming of Dignity	More	Same	Less
	60%	37%	3%

ILO4 Responses

Within the last year, have you participated in a project that...

Helped to develop the community? (including economic justice, wealth disparity, etc.)	80% yes	20% no
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Promoted Social Justice? (including ADOS, reparations work, etc.)	77% yes	23% no
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Expressed your civic duty? (including voting, voter registration, jury duty, etc.)	83% yes	17% no
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Appendix A: Assessment Module A Questionnaire

Simmons College of Kentucky
Module A

Spring 2020 Assessment

Student Name: _____

Instructions: rate the statements below for how accurately they reflect the way you generally feel and behave. Do not rate what you think you should do, or wish you do, or things you no longer do. Please be as honest as possible.

These items are anchored on the following scale:

1 = very slightly or not at all; 2 = a little; 3 = moderately; 4 = quite a bit; 5 = extremely.

- ____ 1. I actively seek as much information as I can in new situations.
- ____ 2. I am the type of person who really enjoys the uncertainty of everyday life.
- ____ 3. I am at my best when doing something that is complex or challenging.
- ____ 4. Everywhere I go, I am out looking for new things or experiences.
- ____ 5. I view challenging situations as an opportunity to grow and learn.
- ____ 6. I like to do things that are a little frightening.
- ____ 7. I am always looking for experiences that challenge how I think about myself and the world.
- ____ 8. I prefer jobs that are excitingly unpredictable.
- ____ 9. I frequently seek out opportunities to challenge myself and grow as a person.
- ____ 10. I am the kind of person who embraces unfamiliar people, events, and places.
- ____ 11. I work well with others.
- ____ 12. I have a "to-do" list.
- ____ 13. I honor my commitments.

- ___ 14. I am good at “following up” at tasks.
- ___ 15. I am comfortable prioritizing tasks.
- ___ 16. I learn from my mistakes so I can do better next time.
- ___ 17. I have developed a routine that helps me make the most of my day.
- ___ 18. I don’t let interruptions interfere with getting my tasks done.
- ___ 19. I generally do not overcommit myself.
- ___ 20. I manage my calendar well.

The following questions have to do with your style of learning. These items are anchored to this scale:

1 = strongly disagree 2 = disagree 3= neutral 4 = agree 5 = strongly agree

- ___ 1, I prefer to have others plan my learning
- ___ 2, I prefer problems for which there is only one solution
- ___ 3 I can deal with the unexpected and solve problems as they arise
- ___ 4, I feel uncomfortable under conditions of uncertainty
- ___ 5 I am able to impose meaning upon what others see as disorder
- ___ 6, I seldom think about my own learning and how to improve it
- ___ 7 I feel I am a self-directed learner
- ___ 8, I feel others are in a better position than I am to evaluate my success as a student
- ___ 9 I love learning for its own sake
- ___ 10 I try to relate academic learning to practical issues
- ___ 11, I often find it difficult to locate information when I need it

____12 When I approach new material, I try to relate it to what I already know

____13 It is my responsibility to make sense of what I learn at school

____14, When learning something new I try to focus on the details rather than on the 'big picture'

Appendix B: Assessment Module B Questionnaire

**Simmons College of Kentucky
Module B**

Assessment Week 2020

Student Name: _____

1. My participation in the Simmons learning community helped me to become...

(circle one)

...more // about the same // less	hopeful
...more // about the same // less	compassionate
...more // about the same // less	affirming of others' dignity

2. As a part of the Simmons learning community, I have had the opportunity to participate in activities that...

(circle one)

Promote justice	never	sometimes	often
Promote responsible stewardship	never	sometimes	often
Promote my personal identity	never	sometimes	often

3. As a part of the Simmons learning community, I have grown in my understanding of... (circle one)

Justice	none	some	a lot	greatly
Responsible stewardship	none	some	a lot	greatly
My personal identity	none	some	a lot	greatly

4. Within the last year, have you participated in a project that...

Helped to develop the community? yes no

(including economic justice, wealth disparity, etc.)

Promoted Social Justice? yes no

(including ADOS, reparations work, etc.)

Expressed your civic duty? yes no

(including voting, voter registration, jury duty, etc.)

Personal Mission Statement

A “mission statement” is an expression of one’s purpose. It answers the question “why do I do the things I do.” You may choose to include career, family, spiritual, physical, and / or social considerations. Please use the space below to write your personal “mission statement.”

Personal Goals Related to your “mission statement” are your personal goals. What accomplishments are you aiming for? In what order? List at least 3 personal goals.

Personal Accountability Do you have an accountability structure to help you keep to your word? It could be friends, family, co-workers, or professional people who will help you “stay on the right track.” Please describe how you handle “personal accountability.”

COVID-19's Impact on the Spring 2020 Semester at Simmons

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted your...

Study habits?

Educational goals?

Understanding of yourself (your resilience, creativity, adaptability, empathy)?

The mission of Simmons College of Kentucky is to “educate people in the urban context through strong academic and professional programs in order that they may become productive citizens and agents of change in society.” In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, do you see Simmons’ mission as more important, or less important?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a great deal of disruption in societies around the world. How do you feel the following groups responded to the crisis?

Handled it well

OK

Handled it poorly

Other Simmons Students	—	—	—	—
Simmons Faculty	—	—	—	—
Simmons Administration	—	—	—	—
Yourself as a Student	—	—	—	—

Is there anything you would have done differently this semester in light of the pandemic?

Appendix C: Module A & B Results

Assessment Week 2020 Modules Scorecard

FINAL

N = 30

MODULE 1	VS, NAA	Little	moderate	Quite	extreme	Mean
Curiosity & Exploration CEI-II						
1. I actively seek as much information as I can in new situations.	2	2	2	10	14	4.07
2. I am the type of person who really enjoys the uncertainty of everyday life.	5	7	12	4	2	2.7
3. I am at my best when doing something that is complex or challenging.	0	2	5	15	8	3.9
4. Everywhere I go, I am out looking for new things or experiences.	1	2	8	11	8	3.77
5. I view challenging situations as an opportunity to grow and learn.	1	1	2	9	17	4.33
6. I like to do things that are a little frightening.	4	4	12	7	3	3.03
7. I am always looking for experiences that challenge how I think about myself and the world.	1	1	5	11	12	4.07
8. I prefer jobs that are excitingly unpredictable.	2	4	15	3	6	3.23

9. I frequently seek out opportunities to challenge myself and grow as a person.	2	1	8	10	9	3.77
10. I am the kind of person who embraces unfamiliar people, events, and places.	1	1	9	7	12	3.93
1,3,5,7,9 = stretching						4.03
2,4,6,8,10 = embracing						3.33
Overall						3.68
Initiative Scale (ILO2 Lifelong Learning)						
11. I work well with others.	1	1	3	10	15	4.23
12. I have a "to-do" list.	2	3	8	7	10	3.67
13. I honor my commitments.	1	0	4	7	18	4.37
14. I am good at "following up" at tasks.	1	1	4	14	10	4.03
15. I am comfortable prioritizing tasks.	1	2	4	11	12	4.03
16. I learn from my mistakes so I can do better next time.	0	1	1	9	19	4.53
17. I have developed a routine that helps me make the most of my day.	1	1	8	9	11	3.93
18. I don't let interruptions interfere with getting my tasks done.	2	1	10	15	2	3.47
19. I generally do not overcommit myself.	3	4	10	10	3	3.2
20. I manage my calendar well.	3	1	9	14	3	3.43
Overall						3.89
Lifelong Learning ILO2	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
1, I prefer to have others plan my learning (R)	2	10	15	2	1	3.33
2, I prefer problems for which there is only one solution (R)	4	9	15	1	1	3.47
3 I can deal with the unexpected and solve problems as they arise	1	1	7	14	7	3.83
4, I feel uncomfortable under conditions of uncertainty (R)	2	10	13	5	0	3.3
5 I am able to impose meaning upon what others see as disorder	1	0	12	14	3	3.6
6, I seldom think about my own	5	11	6	1	7	3.2

learning and how to improve it (R)						
7 I feel I am a self-directed learner	0	4	6	13	7	3.77
8, I feel others are in a better position than I am to evaluate my success as a student (R)	4	10	11	4	1	3.4
9 I love learning for its own sake	1	5	4	10	10	3.77
10 I try to relate academic learning to practical issues	1	1	3	9	16	4.27
11, I often find it difficult to locate information when I need it (R)	3	16	9	2	0	3.67
12 When I approach new material, I try to relate it to what I already know	0	0	7	17	6	3.97
13 It is my responsibility to make sense of what I learn at school	0	0	8	11	11	4.1
14, When learning something new I try to focus on the details rather than on the 'big picture' (R)	2	4	15	5	4	2.83
Overall						3.61
ILO3 Worldview, Kingdom of God, Hermeneutic SELF REPORT						
Module 2						
Q1						
Hopeful:: More	22	73%				
Hopeful::About the same	7	24%				
Hopeful::Less	1	3%				
Compassionate::More	22	73%				
Compassionate::About the Same	8	27%				
Compassionate::Less	0	0%				
Dignity::More	18	60%				
Dignity::About the Same	11	37%				
Dignity::Less	1	3%				
Q2						
To participate in activities that...						
Justice::Never	2	7%				
Justice::Sometimes	10	33%				
Justice::Often	18	60%				
Stewardship::Never	2	7%				
Stewardship::Sometimes	11	37%				

Stewardship::Often	17	56%				
Identity::Never	2	7%				
Identity::Sometimes	10	33%				
Identity::Often	18	60%				
Q3						
I have grown in my understanding of...						
Justice::none	1	3%				
Justice::some	6	20%				
Justice::a lot	11	37%				
Justice::greatly	12	40%				
Stewardship::none	1	3%				
Stewardship::some	7	23%				
Stewardship::a lot	10	34%				
Stewardship::greatly	12	40%				
Identity::none	1	3%				
Identity::some	4	13%				
Identity::a lot	6	20%				
Identity::greatly	19	64%				
ILO 4 Community, Social Justice, Civic Duty SELF REPORT						
Q4						
Community? yes	24	80%				
Community? no	6	20%				
Social Justice? yes	23	77%				
Social Justice? no	7	23%				
Civic Duty? yes	25	83%				
Civic Duty? no	5	17%				
COVID-19 Questions						
Other students well	12	40%				
Other students OK	14	47%				
Other students poorly	4	13%				

Faculty well	20	67%				
Faculty OK	9	30%				
Faculty poorly	1	3%				
Admin well	17	57%				
Admin OK	12	40%				
Admin poorly	1	3%				
Yourself well	20	67%				
Yourself OK	7	23%				
Yourself poorly	3	10%				
WRITING SAMPLES	YES=16	NO=14				