VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Revised October 21, 2015

Educational Effectiveness Profile

VST evaluates our educational effectiveness in a variety of ways: through course evaluations, through a cycle of program reviews, by evaluation of retention rates, in 'exit interviews' with graduating students, and through both the Graduating Student (GSQ) and Alumni Questionnaires designed by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

In the table below, some data from the GSQ demonstrates VST's effectiveness in meeting the goals of our curriculum. The data reflects questions from Student Questionnaires developed by VST to assess particular dimensions and commitments in our curriculum, as well as some standard ATS-developed questions designed to uniformly evaluate theological programs across the continent. For comparison, Canadian averages from ATS last year's review is noted.

Scale ranking is 1 to 5, 5 is 'much stronger', or 'strongly agree'. Percentage ranking represents those who answered "effective" or "very effective".

ATS Graduating Students Questionnaire.	**VST Grads 2012-2013 72% response rate**	**VST Grads 2013-2014 39% response rate**	**VST Grads 2014-2015 100% Response rate**	**All Theological Schools in Canada (2014-2015)**	
	Avg.	**Avg.**	**Avg.**	**Avg.**	**S.D.**
VST Goal #1 **VST has as one of its primary goals "to prepare persons for learned leadership, in and for the church and world of the 21st century".**					
ATS measures related to this goal. *How would you rate your progress in skills in the following areas?*					
Strength of spiritual life	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	1.0
Self-confidence	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	0.9
Self-knowledge	4.3	4.5	4.1	4.1	0.9
Ability to preach well	4.5	3.5	4.1	3.9	1.0
Ability to use and interpret Scripture	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.3	0.7
Knowledge of church polity/canon law	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	1.0
Ability to give spiritual direction	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.7	1.1
Ability to teach well	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.8	1.0
Knowledge of church doctrine and history	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	0.8
Ability to lead others	4.4	3.5	4.3	4.0	0.9
Ability to conduct worship/liturgy	4.5	3.8	4.1	3.8	1.1
Ability in pastoral counseling	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	1.1
Ability to administer a parish	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.3	1.1
Knowledge of Christian philosophy and ethics	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.0	0.8
Ability to think theologically	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.4	0.7

ATS Graduating Students Questionnaire.	VST Grads 2012-2013	VST Grads 2013-2014	VST Grads 2014-2015	All Theological Schools in Canada
VST Goal #2 **VST seeks to provide a supportive context that enables the formation of collegial relationships and/or friendships with other students. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	100%	100%	88.9%	n/a
ATS measures related to this goal. *How much do you agree with the following statements?*				
Faculty were supportive and understanding	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.5
I have felt accepted within this school community	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.3
I know at least one faculty well	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.3
I have made good friends here	4.5	4.2	3.8	4.1
VST Goal #3 **VST holds that one of the goals of its curriculum is to raise awareness of issues of feminism, sexism, and genders. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	88.9%	81.9%	83.3%	n/a
Is the goal, as outlined in the previous question, important in the work you see yourself doing?	83.3%	90.9%	72.2%	n/a
VST Goal #4 **VST holds that one of the goals of its curriculum is to inspire engagement with issues related to indigenous peoples and to partner with First Nations and the global indigenous community. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	94.1%	100%	94.5%	n/a
Is the goal, as outlined in the previous question, important in the work you see yourself doing?	88.9%	81.9%	72.2%	n/a
VST Goal #5 **VST holds that one of the goals of its curriculum is to develop critical, biblical, theological, historical, ethical, and pastoral learning, so that students can engage emerging contemporary issues in public and pastoral leadership. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	94.4%	100%	83.4%	n/a
Is the goal, as outlined in the previous question, important in the work you see yourself doing?	87.3%	100%	88.9%	n/a

ATS Graduating Students Questionnaire.	VST Grads 2012-2013	VST Grads 2013-2014	VST Grads 2014-2015	All Theological Schools in Canada
ATS measures related to this goal. *How would you rate the accuracy of, or your development in the following statements/ areas?*				
Empathy for the poor and oppressed	3.9	4.0	4.3	3.9
Concern about social justice	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.8
Insight into troubles of others	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.8
Ability to relate social issues to faith	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.1
VST Goal #6 **VST holds that one of the goals of its curriculum is to engage issues of ecology, land and global cities, paying attention to how they impact public and pastoral leadership in contemporary contexts. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	77.7%	90.9%	77.8%	n/a
Is the goal, as outlined in the previous question, important in the work you see yourself doing?	83.3%	81.9%	83.3%	n/a
ATS measures related to this goal. *How effective was your education in acquiring the following?*				
Ability to integrate ecological concerns into theology and ministry	*N/A*	*N/A*	4.0	3.7
VST Goal #7 **VST affirms the values of diversity and inclusivity, recognizing that the faith journeys which animate us are particular and diverse. We honor this particularity and diversity in our intellectual, communal and worship lives. How would you rate the effectiveness of VST in fulfilling this goal?**				
% of those who answered "effective" or "very effective"	83.4%	90.9%	88.9%	n/a
Is the statement, as outlined in the previous question, important in the work you see yourself doing?	94.5%	81.8%	83.4%	n/a
ATS measures related to this goal. *How would you rate the accuracy of, or your development in the following statements/ areas?*				
Respect for other religious traditions	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.0
Respect for my own religious tradition	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3
The school has tried to be a diverse and inclusive community	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.3
I have come to know students from other racial, cultural and ethnic groups	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.1
Ability to live one's faith in daily life	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1