Saint John Vianney College Seminary

Theologate Faculty Assessment of Alumni

The comprehensive process of assessing the institutional effectiveness at St. John Vianney College Seminary (SJVCS) includes as one of its tools a measure of the readiness of the most recent graduates to transfer, and of the adequacy of their formation to continue with their next vocational stage. The instrument developed for this purpose is a survey for the current faculty of those recent graduates about how well prepared and adjusted are those SJVCS alumni. A questionnaire was made available online to the faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary (SVdPRS), where the majority of SJVCS graduates transfer to complete their priestly formation. This survey is scheduled biennially. The satisfactory results from the 2021 survey follow.

The questionnaire, shown in Appendix A below consists of 20 specific items related to SJVCS graduates. These items are evaluated with a set of qualifying categories, ranging from *Excellent* to *Poor*, also shown in that appendix.

An email containing the link to a Microsoft Forms site was sent to the faculty listed in SVdPRS website. Ten professors completed the survey.
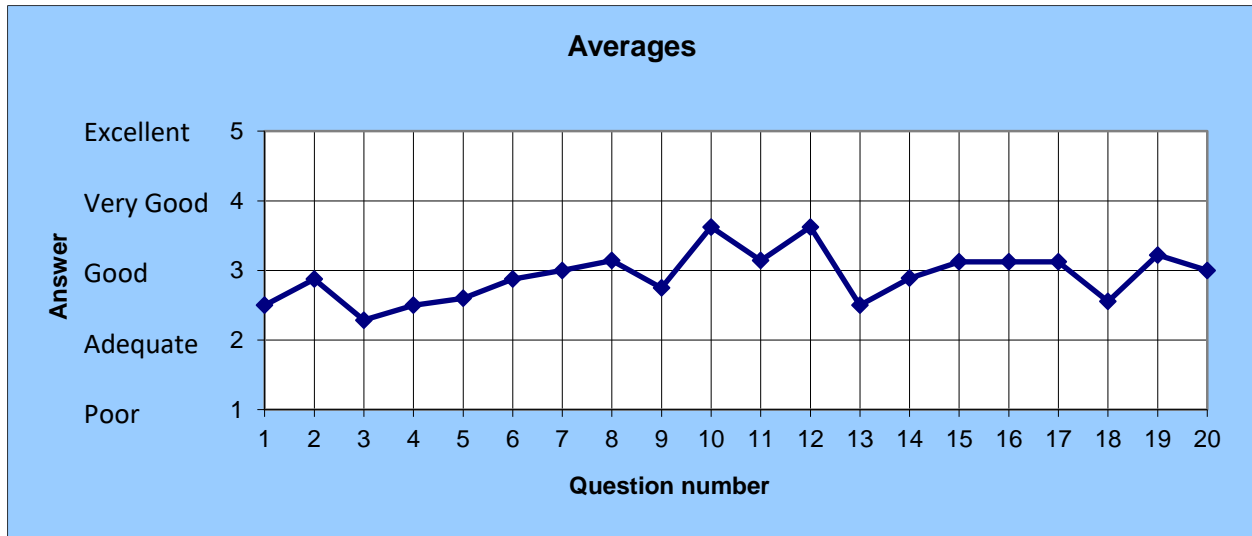
Individual answers are tabulated in the **Data & Statistics** tab of the accompanying electronic spreadsheet **AlumniAssessmentByFaculty2021.xls**. More than half (57%) of all individual answers were in the positive categories of *Excellent*, *Very Good* and Good. Almost one in eight (12%) were in the intermediate category of *Adequate*. One in seven (14%) were in the lower category of *Poor*. The *No Opinion* option was chosen by over a sixth (18%) of respondents.

Several statistical indicators were used to analyze the answers, all of them producing satisfactory results. All but three of the item's averages were in the positive category of *Good*; and for the other three, two of them were in the higher category of *Very Good*, while the third was at *Average*. Medians were very similar, with all but two of the items scoring at *Good*, one at *Very Good*, and one at *Adequate*. This consistency between averages and medians supports the reliability of the data. Most modes (70%) were also at the *Good* category, but it furthermore illustrated a larger diversity of opinions: for instance, there was one (5%) *Very Good* score, two selections (10%) of the *Adequate* category and three instances (15%) of *Poor*. All of these scores are shown in the table next page (p. 2).
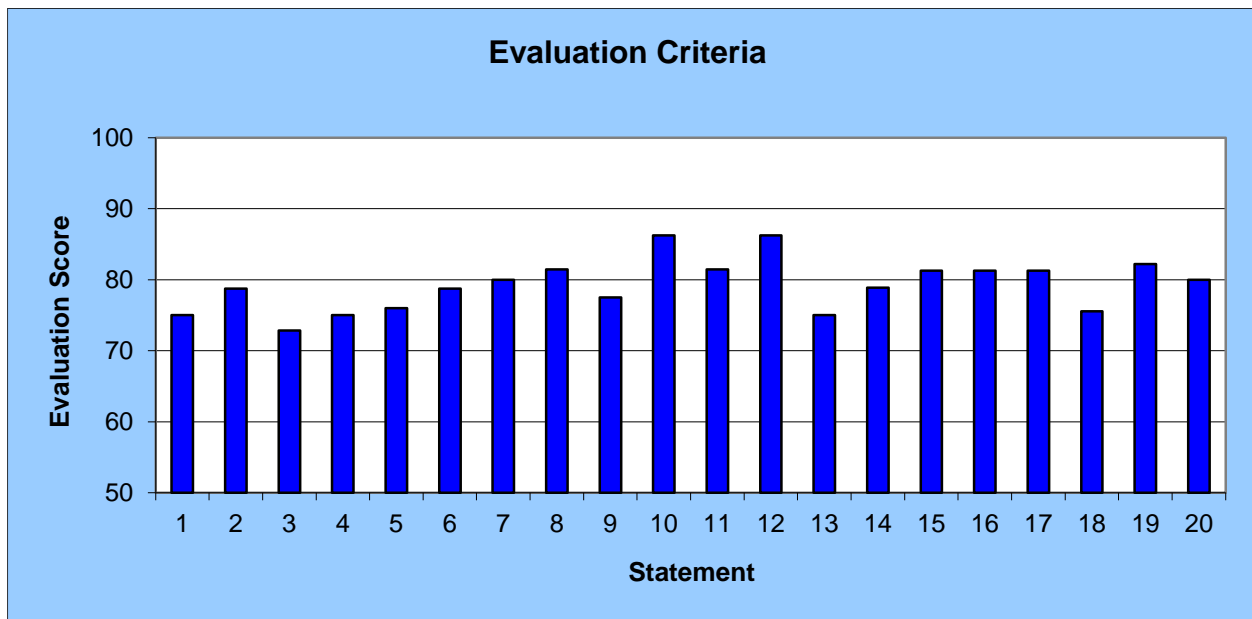
One more indicator was developed at SJVCS: the institutionally defined evaluation criteria, which are described below in Appendix B. It assesses the level of agreement with institutional expectations. This fourth indicator substantiates the results from the other three, with half of the items *meeting* institutional expectations and the other half *exceeding* them. Results are also shown in the aforementioned table of page 2. At the bottom of this table are the average and median of the evaluation criteria score for all items. They both *met* institutional expectations, but they are a fraction of a percent about to *exceed* them.

Q. #	Average	Closest Choice	Median	Closest Choice	Mode	Closest Choice	Evaluation Criteria	
							Score	Criteria
1	2.5	G	2.5	G	2.0	A	75.0	Meeting
2	2.9	G	3.0	G	1.0	P	78.8	Meeting
3	2.3	A	3.0	G	3.0	G	72.9	Meeting
4	2.5	G	2.5	G	1.0	P	75.0	Meeting
5	2.6	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	76.0	Meeting
6	2.9	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	78.8	Meeting
7	3.0	G	3.0	G	4.0	VG	80.0	Exceeding
8	3.1	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	81.4	Exceeding
9	2.8	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	77.5	Meeting
10	3.6	VG	4.0	VG	3.0	G	86.3	Exceeding
11	3.1	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	81.4	Exceeding
12	3.6	VG	3.0	G	3.0	G	86.3	Exceeding
13	2.5	G	2.5	G	1.0	P	75.0	Meeting
14	2.9	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	78.9	Meeting
15	3.1	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	81.3	Exceeding
16	3.1	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	81.3	Exceeding
17	3.1	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	81.3	Exceeding
18	2.6	G	2.0	A	2.0	A	75.6	Meeting
19	3.2	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	82.2	Exceeding
20	3.0	G	3.0	G	3.0	G	80.0	Exceeding

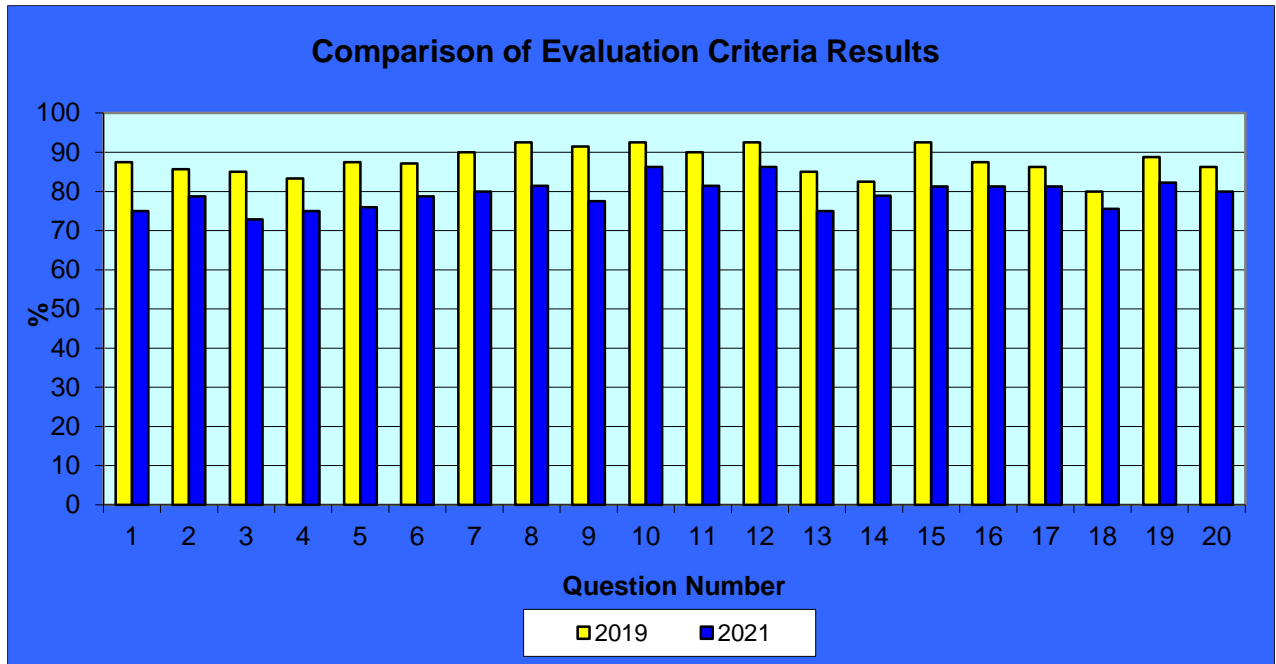|		
Average	79.2	Meeting
Median	79.4	Meeting

Two items are tied with the highest average at 3.6 in the *Very Good* category. They are items 10 (on the *SJVCS alumni's assessment of the value of the Eucharist and other Sacraments to their life*) and 12 (on the *SJVCS alumni's understanding and appreciation of community life*). Item 10 was also the one with the top median also at *Very Good* even though its mode was just *Good*. It was up to item 7 (on *SJVCS alumni's understanding of the value of spiritual direction*) to top the modes, also at *Very Good*. At the opposite end of scores was item 3 (*on the philosophical formation of SJVCS alumni, inasmuch as it helps them understand the value of "perennial philosophy"*) with an average score in the upper part of the *Adequate* category, even though it fared better with the median and the mode at *Good*. This is an instance of a few outliers departing from the consensus and lowering the value. The lowest median, also scoring at the *Adequate* category, was item 18 (on *SJVCS alumni's maturity, psychological health and adjustment*). Given that this item also had a mode with the same score but a higher average at *Good*, this is a contraposition example of a few outliers now dragging up the average. Three modes went even lower with a score of *Poor*. They were items 2 (on *the philosophical foundation for the study of theology of SJVCS alumni*), 4 (on *the philosophical formation of SJVCS alumni, inasmuch as it helps them understand the history of western thought*) and 13 (on *SJVCS alumni's integration of the four pillars of formation (intellectual, spiritual, human and pastoral)*). It should be noted that even though these three items obtained a majority of *Poor* scores, they also obtained enough significantly better scores to rise their averages and medians to the category of *Good*. A graphical summary of these results follows (p. 3, top); with a display of the averages. It can be seen how the averages lied mostly around the category of *Good*.

Averages

Concerning the evaluation criteria, they built up from item 3 (mentioned above as scoring the lowest average) *meeting* expectations, all the way to a tie at the top, *exceeding* expectations, for items 10 and 12, also mentioned above in the context of the highest averages. The following bar graph illustrates the fulfilment of institutional expectations for each item.

Evaluation Criteria

This year's results are somewhat lower than those of the previous survey of 2019 in all items, although not by much. The largest decrease at 14% was fir item 9 (on *SJVCS alumni's understanding of authority and collegiality in the Church*). On average, evaluation criteria decreased by 9%. The specific circumstances of each of these items should be analyzed, but it is important to consider that the previous survey was conducted right before the pandemic while the current one was just after it and still recovering. A comparison of scores is shown in the bar graph next page (p. 4, top).

Comparison of Evaluation Criteria Results

 Further detailed analysis or proper interpretation of the information presented here is left to the Academics Office, the Formation Office and the Rector. The Office of Institutional Research offers its assistance and collaboration in any additional assessment, presentation or interpretation of these data and information.

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Appendix A: Theologate Faculty Assessment of Alumni Survey

Statements:
1   The academic formation of SJVCS alumni is
2   The philosophical foundation for the study of theology of SJVCS alumni is
3   The philosophical formation of SJVCS alumni, inasmuch as it helps them understand the value of "perennial philosophy" is
4   The philosophical formation of SJVCS alumni, inasmuch as it helps them understand the history of western thought is
5   The overall academic formation of SJVCS alumni, inasmuch as it disposes them to the analysis and understanding of life in the contemporary world is
6   The overall spiritual formation of SJVCS alumni is
7   SJVCS alumni's understanding of the value of spiritual direction is
8   SJVCS alumni's habit of systematic and periodic spiritual direction is
9   SJVCS alumni's understanding of authority and collegiality in the Church is
10 SJVCS alumni's assessment of the value of the Eucharist and other Sacraments to their life is
11 SJVCS alumni's understanding and acceptance of the role of celibacy for the priesthood is
12 SJVCS alumni's understanding and appreciation of community life is
13 SJVCS alumni's integration of the four pillars of formation (intellectual, spiritual, human and pastoral) is
14 SJVCS alumni's personal acceptance and appropriation of their priestly vocation is
15 SJVCS alumni's formation and disposition for pastoral work is
16 SJVCS alumni's understanding of the connection of priestly vocation to service to others is
17 SJVCS alumni's disposition and ability to work with religious and lay people as equals is
18 SJVCS alumni's maturity, psychological health and adjustment is
19 SJVCS alumni's spirituality is
20 SJVCS alumni's understanding and sensitivity to the human condition is

Answer Choices:
5   Excellent
4   Very Good
3   Good
2   Adequate
1   Poor
0   No opinion

Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Criteria consists of a percent-like standard scale that assesses the degree of fulfillment of institutional expectations. It maps a discrete set of answers into a grade-like numerical value that indicates the degree of fulfillment of institutional expectations. The quantization of answers is done according to the following table:

Answer	Value
Excellent	100
Very Good	90
Good	80
Adequate	70
Poor	60
No opinion	Does not contribute

and the mapping algorithm is implemented using the formula:

$$S = \frac{100\,N_E + 90\,N_{VG} + 80\,N_G + 70\,N_A + 60\,N_P}{N_E + N_{VG} + N_G + N_A + N_P}$$

where N_E, N_{VG}, N_G, N_A and N_P represent the number of answers with the choices of *Excellent*, *Very Good*, *Good*, *Adequate* and *Poor* respectively. This formula produces numerical scores S indicating a range of degrees of fulfillment of institutional expectations according to the criteria shown in the subsequent table:

Score Range	Criteria
$90 \leq S \leq 100$	Far exceeding expectations
$80 \leq S < 90$	Exceeding expectations
$70 \leq S < 80$	Meeting expectations
$S < 70$	Below expectations