

School of Theology and Christian Ministry
Department Review
Notes on Focus Groups
April 2012

1) Focus group methodology

- a. Groups will consist of face to face interaction with up to eight respondents in each group. Grads who cannot attend will be given the opportunity to respond via email.
- b. All graduating seniors and recent graduates (2008-2011) will be invited to participate.
- c. Focus group sessions will last about an hour to an hour and a half.
- d. Sessions will be co-facilitated by two leaders from outside the department, one who will pose the questions and draw out responses, the other who will record responses. If possible, sessions will be video-taped in order to enhance the presentation of data.

2) Data Collection and Analysis

- a. The co-facilitators will write up each session including main points and characteristic quotes offered by the respondents.
- b. Data will be collapsed as appropriate for review and reporting.

Focus group questions

- Describe your educational experience as a major in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry.
 - What are some of the positive educational experiences you remember?
 - What are some of the negative experiences you remember?
 - Reflect on the curricular requirements of your particular major.
- How could your educational experience in the SoTCM have been better?
 - What would you suggest the department give attention to as it evaluates the program in order to better educate and mentor students in the future?
 - What changes or additions, if any would you recommend for your particular major?
- Describe your experience of Christian formation as a major in the SoTCM?
 - Did you mature in your life as a Christian (beliefs, practices, devotion) as a result of being in the SoTCM? If so, how? If not, why not?
 - What was your experience of being mentored by professors in the department?
- What other observations or suggestions do you have that might be helpful as the SoTCM reviews its programs and curricula?