

2019-20 EMMANUEL COLLEGE STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Emmanuel College's curriculum entails a series of interwoven goals arising from the Vision, Mission and Values of the College, directed towards identifiable degree program learning outcomes, and functioning in relationship with several academic, ecclesial and professional accrediting bodies. Emmanuel College conducts ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of its educational programs in enabling students to attain those goals, in compliance with our various partners, including The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), The United Church of Canada (UCC), the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) and the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO). A complete program assessment utilizes direct (performance) and indirect (perception) data. This Statement of Educational Effectiveness draws on both, highlighting placement rates, graduation rates, evaluation of student artifacts (assignments), and feedback from continuing and graduating students.

Emmanuel College Vision, Mission, and Values

Adopted by EC Council, April 30, 2019

Vision

To be a leading theological school
where students become more deeply rooted in their own religious or spiritual traditions
while engaging the beliefs and practices of people of other traditions.

Mission

Rooted in the ecumenical heritage of the United Church of Canada,
shaped by its context in Victoria University
and in relationship with Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and other religious communities,
Emmanuel College equips leaders and scholars for rigorous theological inquiry
and for inclusive practices of justice and care, contextual analysis, creative activity,
and interfaith engagement.

Values

Emmanuel College values a collegial environment for

- inclusive and respectful dialogue
- intellectual curiosity
- academic excellence
- public engagement
- artistic, musical, and liturgical creativity
- innovation in interfaith learning
- the search for justice and right relations

EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS: 2019-2020

In 2019 Emmanuel College adopted a revised statement of Vision, Mission and Values (VMV; see p. 1, above) and related learning outcomes for all its programs, bringing greater clarity and focus to our work of theological education in an interreligious context. To augment the 2019-20 GSQ data (which is not yet available) and in support of our present ATS accreditation process, a new 2020 Emmanuel College Basic Degree Programs Survey was designed to assess our educational effectiveness more explicitly in relation to our stated VMV.

1.1 Student Feedback: The College and its Programs

Feedback from the 2020 Emmanuel College Basic Degree Survey demonstrates a high degree of student satisfaction with the ethos of College and the effectiveness of its programs.

When asked “How satisfied have you been with the following aspects of your experience at Emmanuel?” over 80% of **students in all Basic Degree programs** (MDiv, MPS, MSMus, MTS) were either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the following (total percentage indicated in brackets):

- Accessibility of faculty (96%)
- Quality of teaching (90%)
- Class size (88%)
- Library collection (92%)
- Helpfulness of administrative/staff support (82%)
- Academic/faculty advising (82%)
- Admissions (84%)

When asked “How helpful to your learning have the following elements of the Emmanuel College community curriculum been?” over 80% found them to be either “helpful” or “very helpful.”

- religious diversity (86%)
- age range (84%)
- cultural diversity (88%)
- gender balance/diversity (80%)
- openness to diverse sexual identities and orientations (84%)
- openness to diverse theological perspectives (86%)

A strong majority of **MDiv** students found their program to be either “effective” or “very effective” at meeting its four outcomes:

- Knowledge of Christian scripture, history, ethics, and theology (systematic, constructive, contextual, and pastoral) that is substantial and relevant for particular diverse ministries. (90%)
- Comprehension of intercultural contextual issues bearing upon ministry and leadership in diverse communities. (90%)
- Formation and clarity of vocation in relation to appropriate church bodies or religious institutions. (80%)
- Skills, gifts and practices of ministry appropriate for leadership in communities of faith. (100%)

A strong majority of **MPS** students (which includes those of Buddhist, Christian, Muslim and other traditions) found their program to be either “effective” or “very effective” at meeting its four outcomes:

- Knowledge of faith foundations (including sacred texts, religious history, religious-based ethics, tenets and diversity of religious traditions). (69%)
- Knowledge of theories of the social sciences (may include psychological, spiritual, psychotherapeutic, education, leadership and/or leadership theories) relevant to your professional practice. (93%)
- Sustained reflection on spiritual and professional identity formation in intercultural and interfaith contexts, in relation to specialized practice. (86%)
- Skills, gifts and arts of professional practice, grounded in appropriate theories, for leadership in institutional, community and other settings. (83%)

At least 3 of the 4 **MSMus** students found their program to be either “effective” or “very effective” at meeting its three outcomes:

- An informed musical sensibility in performance practice. (75%)
- Basic knowledge of Christian scripture, history, and theology. (100%)
- Competency in the skills, gifts and arts of ministry appropriate for leadership in local congregations and other settings. (75%)

Two out of the 3 **MTS** students found their program to be either “effective” or “very effective” at meeting its three outcomes:

- Knowledge of scripture, history, ethics, and theology that is substantial and relevant.
- Comprehension of intercultural, interreligious and contextual issues bearing upon theological scholarship.
- Skills and practices of theological scholarship.

1.2 Student Feedback: Vision, Mission and Values

Feedback from the 2020 Emmanuel College Basic Degree Survey demonstrates strong agreement that the College is living up to its Vision, Mission and Values (VMV).

When asked to respond to the statement “Emmanuel College is a collegial environment for:” and presented with the list of seven stated “**Values**” from the College’s VMV, a majority of all Basic Degree students surveyed responded either “agree” or “strongly agree.”

- inclusive and respectful dialogue (88%)
- intellectual curiosity (96%)
- academic excellence (92%)
- public engagement (54%)
- artistic, music, and liturgical creativity (66%)
- innovation in interfaith learning (78%)
- the search for justice and right relations (82%)

In reference to the “**Mission**” of the College, when asked “How effective has your education at Emmanuel College been at equipping you for:” the four specific areas of the College’s Mission, a strong majority of all Basic Degree students surveyed responded either “effective” or “very effective.”

- rigorous theological inquiry (82%)
- inclusive practices of justice and care (80%)
- contextual analysis (86%)
- creative activity (64%)
- interfaith engagement (74%)

To further probe the College's Mission in relation to its United Church heritage, students were also asked "How effectively has your education at Emmanuel College reflected the ecumenical heritage and theological ethos of The United Church of Canada?" to which 89% of those for whom this was applicable responded either "effective" or "very effective."

Finally, quoting directly from the College's "**Vision**" statement, students were asked "To what extent do you agree with this statement: My education at Emmanuel College has rooted (is rooting) me more deeply in my own religious or spiritual tradition while engaging the beliefs and practices of people of other traditions." The results were as follows:

Strongly disagree:	0%
Disagree:	2%
Neither agree nor disagree:	20%
Agree:	44%
Strongly agree:	34%

In conclusion, the data from the 2020 Emmanuel College Basic Degree Survey, though "indirect," demonstrates a high degree of educational effectiveness across all degree programs and a strong degree of support for the dynamic ethos and Vision, Mission and Values of Emmanuel College.