

## STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

### BUILDING COMMUNITY IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

#### Section 1 – The Learning Environment

The goal of this survey is to evaluate what elements of built environment affect student experience. Feel free to use any part of your educational experience as a reference. If you prefer, just refer to your most recent educational environment.

1. Which grade level are you in?
  - a. Freshman
  - b. Sophomore
  - c. Junior
  - d. Senior
  - e. Other
2. How did you get to school?
  - a. By walking
  - b. By bicycle
  - c. By car
  - d. By school bus or public transportation
  - e. Drop off by others
3. Which of the following options do you think make students and faculty feel welcome in the space: (choose all that apply)
  - a. Walkways and spaces are reasonably organized.
  - b. Materials are durable and aesthetically appealing.
  - c. Colors are well designed and arranged.
  - d. Materials and colors helped people find their way around.
  - e. The signs in and around this school are easy to understand.
  - f. Navigating in the school environment, I feel I am treated with respect.
  - g. I have no experience with any of these options.
  - h. I don't feel any of these options are welcoming.

Examples / reasons:

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4. Which of the following options do you think affects your ability to learn in the classroom:  
(Choose all that apply)
- a. Vibrant and appropriate colors
  - b. Ability to re-arrange the classroom.
  - c. Access to different types and scales of learning spaces (lecture, breakout, lab, maker space).
  - d. Availability of equipment and access to supplies.
  - e. Access to the exterior/windows.
  - f. Access to ancillary spaces (lounges, break rooms, etc.)
  - g. I have no experience with any of these options.
  - h. I don't feel any of these options affect my ability to learn in the classroom.

Anything else? Do you think these apply to teachers/staff as well?

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5. Which of the following options encourage you to spend more time in a learning environment?  
(Choose all that apply)
- a. There are private and/or quiet spaces to study or relax
  - b. There are a variety of spaces for me to hang out with friends or make new friends.
  - c. Individual storage space/lockers are available and easy to find.
  - d. Restrooms and/or drinking fountains are available, accessible and attractive.
  - e. Eating/food preparation spaces are available and easy to find.
  - f. All facilities/service departments are easily accessible. (Easy to find entrances, reasonable walking distance, adequate waiting area, etc.)
  - g. The school environment gives everyone a sense of belonging.
  - h. None of these apply to my experience.
  - i. I didn't feel any of these encouraged me to stay in the learning environment.

Of your selections, what is the most important to you and why?

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6. Do you participate in any group activities? (Choose all that apply)
- a. Class study groups
  - b. Creative groups (theater, band, choir, etc.)

- c. Student cultural clubs
- d. Academic or professional organizations (by department, major, etc.)
- e. Volunteer groups
- f. Student Government
- g. Athletics
- h. Student mentoring
- i. Other
- j. I didn't participate in any group activities.
- k. No group activities were available to me.

Where do these activities take place? How could these locations be improved?

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## Section 2 - Interior Environment Characteristics

7. Evaluate the level of comfort of your learning environment:

(1 to 5: strongly disagree to strongly agree)

- |  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. The spaces are well illuminated           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. The space is not visually noisy.          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. The air in the school is fresh and clean. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. The space is not too loud.                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. The temperature is comfortable.           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

8. Which of the items affect your comfort in the learning space? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Materials are durable and aesthetically appealing.
- b. Colors are well-designed and arranged: not too bright or busy, not too bland or dull
- c. Spaces are well-lit: not too dark, not too bright
- d. Spaces have access to day-light.
- e. The space is not too noisy.
- f. The space is not too warm or too cold.
- g. The air is fresh, not stale.
- h. Strong smells do not linger in the space.
- i. Faculty and students have access to personal space.
- j. Faculty and students can control and modify their personal environment.
- k. Spaces have a connection to nature (e.g., plants in-doors, natural materials, etc.)
- l. None of these affect me.
- m. None of these were available to me.

Of your selections above, what are your top 3? What is the most common complaint you hear in spaces you frequent on campus?

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### Section 3 – Furniture Characteristics

9. Evaluate the furniture in your learning environment.:

(1 to 5: strongly disagree to strongly agree)

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Furniture is comfortable and easy to use.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b. Furniture is durable.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c. Furniture is easy to reconfigure.  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| d. Furniture meets variable needs:<br>finishing homework, group discussion,<br>working on private tasks, rest, etc. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e. Furniture is aesthetically appealing   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Which of these furniture options affected your ability to effectively use your learning environment?

- a. Furniture is comfortable
- b. Furniture is durable
- c. Furniture is aesthetically appealing
- d. Individual pieces of furniture can be used in different ways
- e. Furniture can be reconfigured to create different environments.
- f. Furniture is made of sustainable and/or natural
- g. Students have the ability to select different pieces of furniture
- h. None of these apply to furniture in my learning environment
- i. None of these affect my use of learning environment

Of your selections above, what are your top 3? What type of furniture would enhance your experience in the learning environment?

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#### Section 4 – Personal Experiences

Describe your individual experiences in the learning environment. Provide examples when you can.

10. Are you aware of or do you feel school culture/spirit in the areas you frequent on campus? What about those spaces help create a sense of culture/spirit?

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11. What does school culture/spirit mean to you as it relates to the campus as a whole vs. within your classroom? How are they different?

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12. How did you create a sense of community during COVID with on-line learning? What are the significant differences between on-line school and in-person school to you? After Covid, what experiences or tactics will you bring with you to in-person school?

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13. What aspects of the learning environment encourage you to be more independent and take a leadership role?

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14. Does your experience in the learning environment make you feel you are influencing your community? Share an example if you can.

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15. What are features of learning environments that evoke feelings of exclusion? Share an example if you can.

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