

P1 Focus Group Results Fall 2007

1. What are your thoughts about pharmacy school as an educational experience?

- Emotional and stressful adjustments
- Started off behind
- Time management important
- Learning and not forgetting (retaining)
- What is learned is applicable and hence helps retaining
- Students would like to be informed on what books are needed during orientation. This will help them to know their syllabus, books etc prior to course start.
- Boot camp
 - 1 week should be good
 - presence of professors would help

2. What specific comments do you have about ULM College of Pharmacy?

Happy with the organization

3. What are opinions of the pharmacy curriculum and the design of the curriculum?

- Most are happy with scheduling of lunch breaks and scheduling and sequencing is good.
- Few disagreed because they felt that breaks lose momentum.

4. What are your thoughts about the new integrated modular curriculum?

- Should be interrelated
- Teachers having different viewpoints on same subject make it difficult for students to understand.
- The repetition of information will help students in memorization.
- Integrated curriculum will be helpful if it is interrelated.
- Students would like to have same teachers throughout for tests.

5. Are there adequate opportunities for personal and professional development (non-curricular)? If not, how could this improve?

Students feel that they are given ample opportunities.

6. Do you want more social events or professional events?

- Large events are taxing especially if followed by an exam day.
- Not big but a small social events, e.g. Spirit day
- Probably one dance a semester where students can just be themselves
- Spirit day, ice cream social good idea to relax and meet with other students
- Short informal events of max. 1 hour was suggested

7. Do you think that our admissions procedure provides for selection of the best candidates for pharmacy school? How may we improve this process?

- The ULM admission process runs late compared to other schools. Many have been accepted at other schools before knowing about ULM opportunity.
- The interview process is very nerve racking and intimidating.
- The length of time given for the interview is sufficient.
- This delay in knowing is very stressful.
- Interview process intimidating but more structured.
- Some questions panel asks are repetitive.

8. What do you think of the experiential component of our curriculum? What about service learning?

- Students like the service learning project and like to work with 2nd year pharmacy students.
- Enjoy, something to do outside of class
- Project was good.
- Students feel that they should be required to wear white coats.

9. How have laptops helped with student learning?

- Do not need laptops in school; they preferred to write notes on paper rather than type.
- Laptops are used for only 2 classes.
- Need more connections to plug in laptops

- Converting from pdf to word document is inconvenient
- Most like to print notes
- Need hard copy to read
- Many do not bring laptop to class
- They do not find it useful.
- One person suggested tablet PC (may have the same price tag)
- Typing notes is difficult
- PDF documents not good to make notes
- Note learning session suggested (professional development)
- 50% bring laptop to class
- Power connections is a major concern, batteries may not last long
- Some suggested laptop should be optional
- Students should have flexibility to buy laptop, just provide them with minimum requirements.

10. What improvements can we make in Bienville building?

- More plugs
- Sandwich area in the lounge

11. Other items:

- Testing time (specially pharmaceuticals and pharmacology) should be extended and should be applied consistently
- Progression exams sound terrifying
- Progression exams are fine if it is only for self-assessment
- Electronic student portfolio: all liked the idea