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Don't find your question above? Please contact Meghan Niskach (niskach@ats.edu) for more information.

1. What are the differences between the three ATS Student Questionnaires?

In addition to demographic data and student debt, the Entering Student (ESQ), Graduating Student (GSQ), and Alumni/ae (AQ) Questionnaires each collect different information important to particular stakeholders at your school. The ESQ asks about students' reasons for attending seminary in general and your school in particular, as well as their plans for ministry. The GSQ asks about student levels of satisfaction with academic and extracurricular resources and professional plans; the AQ revisits many of these questions, allowing for longitudinal comparison between GSQ and AQ results. Deans, faculty, and directors of student services find these data useful.

2. We have our own in-house version of a student survey. Why use ATS's version?

There are strengths to both in-house surveys and the ATS student questionnaires. While in-house surveys focus on the details of your particular school, the ATS Student Questionnaires allow you to compare your institution to other ATS member schools. ATS provides you with full-color, graphic reports and the chance to compare your school's data against the Total School Profile compiled from all the ATS member schools using these instruments. In addition, ATS provides comparative reports for a number of regions and denominations in the United States and Canada.

The ATS questionnaires also allow you to include 20 additional questions to the end of the questionnaire to collect information important for your particular school.

The ATS questionnaires have the benefit of having been developed alongside the Commission's Standards of Accreditation, and many of the tables and charts relate directly to the standards. ATS provides several resources on how to use the ATS questionnaires in the self-study process.

Finally, the ESQ and GSQ are free for all ATS member schools and supported by IT and research personnel who work for the Association.

3. When do schools typically administer the ESQ, GSQ, and AQ?

Most schools administer the ESQ during the orientation period for new students (either fall or spring term) or in a required class for first year students. The GSQ is given just prior to graduation. The AQ can be administered to alums at any time, but it is recommended that schools wait until alums are 3 to 5 years out of seminary before surveying them.

Be sure to leave yourself enough time to prepare and inform students about the questionnaire and to do follow-up as necessary.

4. How are the questionnaires administered?

The ESQ, GSQ, and AQ are administered by individual schools to students and graduates as online surveys.

5. How will students access the questionnaire?

School coordinators will email students the URL allowing them to access the questionnaire for their school. Schools should embed the URL as a live link within the text of the email; students can click on the link and immediately enter the questionnaire.

6. How long does it take to complete the survey?

The ESQ and GSQ each take about twenty minutes to complete. The AQ is slightly longer.

7. It seems complicated to set up and submit an online batch. Is it?

Setting up an online batch of questionnaires and inviting your students to participate takes just two emails and a few clicks of your mouse. Simply fill in the Web-based order form for either the [ESQ, GSO, or AQ](#). In five to ten business days, you will receive a password and user ID for your school, along with instructions for accessing the questionnaire administration site and setting up electronic batches. Submitting the completed batch to ATS for processing takes just one additional click. View the [Administrators Manual](#) for more detailed instructions.

The online versions of the questionnaires are entirely paperless, from placing the order to receiving the completed report.

8. Why is my online password not working? It worked last year.

Passwords change from year to year so that we can keep each academic year's data separate. New passwords are available each August 1. Separate passwords are required for the ESQ, GSQ, and AQ. To get your new password, fill out the appropriate [Web-based order form](#) and the password will be emailed to you

9. How do I guarantee that students respond to an online questionnaire?

As a school coordinator, you will have access to information through the Questionnaire Management Interface (QMI) that will enable you to hold your students accountable. When your students complete the survey and click "FINISH," they will be given a numeric completion code that they can print and submit to you as proof of completion. School coordinators will also have the option to view online the names provided by students who have completed the questionnaires. Equipped with that information, you can determine the best way to follow up with your students and encourage them to complete the questionnaire. For more information about the QMI, please consult the [Administrator's Manual](#).

Please note: questionnaires must be at least **60 percent** complete to be included in the processing of the report.

10. What do the reports look like? And how do I interpret the data?

The reports include full color graphs and charts in addition to tabular data. They are emailed as PDF documents to the school coordinator, allowing for easy circulation of data within the school. It is fairly easy to read the charts for basic information. Archived copies of the ESQ and GSQ Total School Profiles can be downloaded from the [ATS Questionnaires resource page](#) on the Web site. ATS also provides annual webinars on data from the Entering and Graduating Student Questionnaires.

If you are interested in more in-depth interpretation of the data, ATS also provides schools with the raw data for each of their questionnaires in an Excel document. For more on interpretation or using the questionnaires in the self-study process, ATS provides online resources, an annual ESQ/GSQ/AQ workshop, and regular self-study workshops for member schools. More information can be found on the [ATS Questionnaires resource page](#).

11. How much does it cost to use the questionnaires? And how do we pay for the services?

The ESQ and GSQ are currently offered free of charge to all ATS member schools and include online access to one instrument (ESQ, GSQ, or AQ) for one academic year; the creation of up to two separate batches per instrument; the generation of one school report; access to the Total School Profile and any denominational or regional reports that include your school's data; and a copy of the raw data for your school. If a school desires to create more than two batches, ATS charges a small fee per batch.

The AQ is currently offered for an annual fee. However, every five years ATS will offer the AQ free of charge to all ATS member schools to survey alums one, five, and ten years after graduation.

Please see the [pricing guide](#) for more information.

12. Can we use the questionnaires if our school has extension sites and online programs?

Absolutely! In fact, the online questionnaires make it even easier to gather data from your extension sites. You may choose to set up a separate batch for each extension site or online program. There will be a small [processing fee](#) for schools that set up more than two batches.

If you have someone at your school who is good with Excel and/or analyzing data, you could also choose to add a custom question to your survey that would allow you to identify the different extension sites or online programs at your institution.