Semi-Structured Student Interview Protocol


*Acknowledgments:* This work was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM program under Grant No. 1635554. For more information, refer to: https://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/institutional-transformation-project

Student Academic & Career Background:

- Could you tell me your full name?
- What year are you in your studies here?
- What’s your major? Have you switched majors or do you intend to switch majors at any point?
  - Note: if yes, why did you/are you going to switch?
- Do you have a sense of your intended profession?
  - Note: if no, focus on major and the kind of activities/work in that major
- How would you describe the nature of that profession?
- How did you come to that view of the profession?
  - Probe: experiences, influences, classes, internships, etc.
- Why did you select that major? Profession?
  - Probe: how did you come to that decision?

Social Responsibility Attitudes:

- Now I’d like to talk a little bit about the role of social responsibility in that profession. How would you describe the nature of social responsibility, or concern for public welfare or public good, in the context of that profession?
  - Note: if necessary, focus on major and the kind of activities/work in that major
- How did you come to those views of the nature of social responsibility in the profession, that is, PSR?
- Did social responsibility factor into your decision to pursue that profession? (Major?)
- Prior to college, what were the biggest influences on your views of social responsibility?
  - Probe: courses, community engagement experiences, internships/work, teachers, family, other students
  - Probe: brief description. Get a sense of the key characteristics (people, motivation, duration, emotional/intellectual influence, etc.)
- During college, (briefly) what have been the biggest influences on your views of social responsibility?
  - Probe: courses, community engagement experiences, internships/work, teachers, family, other students
• To what extent do you think your views on social responsibility were set before college versus since you started college? How about professional social responsibility?

Community Engagement/Experience Characteristics:

• Now I’d like to talk a little bit more about the experience(s) you identified in college which influenced your views of social responsibility. Starting with the (first) influence or experience you identified, ________________, could you describe that in more detail?
  o Note: start with the earliest experience/influence first.
• What motivated you to pursue this experience?
  o Probe: academic requirement, group activity, personal motivation related to SR
• Over what period of time were you engaged in this experience?
  o Probe: duration and frequency
• Was this experience related to a course you took?
  o Probe: curricular, co-curricular, extracurricular
• Was this experience related to your major and/or intended profession?
  o Probe: what was the nature of the disciplinary connection
• Where did this experience occur?
  o Probe: on or off campus, community-based or school-based
• Who determined the goals of the experience?
  o Probe: student driven, community driven, or collaborative
• How closely did you collaborate with the community?
  o Probe: did you do most of the work independently or did you collaborate regularly with the community?
• What was the final outcome or product created as a result of the experience?
  o Probe: did that outcome/product make a difference in how you perceive the experience?
• Did you engage in either formal, facilitated reflection or personal reflection related to this experience?
  o Probe: how impactful was that reflection for you?
• Did the experience affect you emotionally or would you describe the influence as more of an intellectual nature?
  o Probe: stronger identification with community, stronger identification with issue

Impact on Views of Professional Social Responsibility:

• To what extent did the experience change how you’re thinking about your future professional goals?
  o Probe: how important it is to find work with SR components; how you will integrate SR into the work
• To what extent did the experience change your views of the nature of your intended profession itself?
• To what extent did the experience change your awareness of how these social issues/challenges are related to your intended profession?
• To what extent did the experience change your sense that you can impact these challenges through your intended profession?
• To what extent did the experience change your sense of obligation that you should impact these challenges through your intended profession?
  o Probe (if changed major): how did this experience relate to your decision to change your major if at all?
• Which aspects of the experience do you think had the greatest impact on your views of professional social responsibility, if any?
  o Probe: duration, frequency, setting, disciplinary connection, location, initiation, level of collaboration, final outcome/product, reflection, emotional connection
  o Note: share list above. Something like frequency might not stand out, so emphasize it
• Finally, how would you describe your current thinking about social responsibility (before today), and is that something that you’ve been pursuing or planning to pursue?
  o Probe: academic vs. non-academic, activities, classes, personal reflection
  o Probe: overall level of importance/salience of SR to the student currently