

**This assessment review was compiled by our students and is intended to be used as a guide in assisting clinicians. We encourage you to review the evaluations and assessments for yourself to guarantee the most accurate and updated information.*

I. General Information

Title of the test: St. Louis Mental Status Examination (SLUMS)

Author: Lead Author: Syed Tariq, M.D and John Morley, M.D

Publisher: The Department of Veteran Affairs (VAMC)
I was unable to find a direct publisher to this assessment.

Time required to administer: 7-10 minutes to administer and complete questionnaire.

Cost of the Test: Free to administer (found online)

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: St. Louis University Mental Status Examination is a 30-point screening questionnaire that tests for orientation, memory, attention, and executive functions. (SLUMS) is a screening tool that was developed to give clinicians a better gauge of early changes in an individuals cognitive levels that could signal the onset of dementia and indicate to physicians when they should pursue further testing to support or rule out a dementia diagnosis.

Population: Individuals that may be experiencing difficulties with orientation, memory, attention, and executive functions. Generally, used with the VA geriatric population. (Early dementia)

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: This exam is brief and easy to administer. 11 items to cover, takes approximately 7 minutes to administer.

Clarity of Directions: The VAMC Saint Louis University Mental Status has very detailed step-by-step instructions provided in an attached form. The assessment itself does not have specific directions on the paper.

Scoring Procedures: After the administration of the examination, score is calculated by adding up the sum of the numbers. The education level of the individual determines the outcome. **High school education:** Normal: 27-30; Mild neurocognitive disorder: 21-26; Dementia: 1-20.

Less than high school education: Normal: 25-30; Mild neurocognitive disorder: 20-24; Dementia: 1-19.

Examiner Qualification & Training: Social Services, Reflections/Passages Program Coordinators, Licensed Nurses, MDs, NPs, OTs, PTs, Residence Supervisors and Other Qualified Healthcare Professionals who have been trained.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: X Norms Criterion Referenced Other _____

Reliability: I was unable to found a reliable resource to regurgitate information necessary to complete this section.

Validity: I was unable to find a reliable resource to regurgitate information necessary to complete this section.

Manual: ___ Excellent Adequate ___ Poor (Form Details found online were very descriptive and helpful to administer the test).

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment? Generally, used with the VA geriatric population in a VA hospital. Could be used in a skilled nursing facility, inpatient/outpatient rehab clinics. This assessment can be used on individuals that may be experiencing difficulties with orientation, memory, attention, and executive functions. Primarily given to people who are suspected to have dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses: I find that this examine is a great tool to indicate whether a doctor should consider further testing to diagnose dementia. It is quick and easy to administer, which is a big strength of this exam. I do think the weakness of this exam is that there are no directions directly on the assessment. There is no manual for this assessment that I know of at this time. I also found that it was difficult to navigate information regarding this tests reliability and validity. I also find that there needs to be further information about the outcome scores.

Weakness: No directions provided on the assessment/questionnaire. Not a lot of information provided about the outcomes score. More in-depth interpretation would better for the administrator. I also find that one weakness is that I have been unable to find detailed information about the reliability and validity of this assessment.

Strength: This assessment is brief and easy to administer. More individuals are allowed to administer this examination with training.