



CREATING BETTER LIVES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MEMORY LOSS

---

### **The Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) exam**

The Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) exam is recommended for use in the Memory Keepers intake process to assess cognitive ability. A Memory Keepers facilitator or another qualified individual should go through the assessment with the person living with memory loss in-person or virtually. It is recommended that the assessment be completed prior to participation in the Memory Keepers program to gather baseline information (pre-test) and then repeated after each 15-week set (post-test) to track change in cognitive function. Findings can be shared with the person living with dementia (PLWD) and the family. Memory Keepers program providers are encouraged to share findings with Memory Keepers, LLC following each post-test to help gather longitudinal data demonstrating the effectiveness of the intervention.

**Instructions for use:** The SLUMS tool is a brief, 11-item questionnaire in which participants are asked to do a variety of tasks to assess cognitive function. Saint Louis University provides an 8-minute training video on how to administer this exam. This video can be found on SLU's website or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4ctoWU-qzw>. SLUMS takes about 10 minutes to complete. Read the questions aloud clearly and slowly. Make sure the patient is focused on you while you administer the questions. Repeat any instructions as needed. Have separate forms available in larger print for questions such as No. 11 for patients with visual impairment. Score each question as indicated. Circle the level at the bottom of the form based on the score. Scores between 1 and 20 points indicate a Dementia diagnosis, depending on the examinee's highest level of education.

Source: <https://www.slu.edu/medicine/internal-medicine/geriatric-medicine/aging-successfully/assessment-tools/mental-status-exam.php>

# VAMC SLUMS EXAMINATION

Questions about this assessment tool? E-mail [aging@slu.edu](mailto:aging@slu.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Is the patient alert? \_\_\_\_\_ Level of education \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_/1

1 1. What day of the week is it?

\_\_\_/1

1 2. What is the year?

\_\_\_/1

1 3. What state are we in?

4. Please remember these five objects. I will ask you what they are later.

Apple

Pen

Tie

House

Car

5. You have \$100 and you go to the store and buy a dozen apples for \$3 and a tricycle for \$20.

\_\_\_/3

1 How much did you spend?

2 How much do you have left?

\_\_\_/3

6. Please name as many animals as you can in one minute.

0 0-4 animals

1 5-9 animals

2 10-14 animals

3 15+ animals

\_\_\_/5

7. What were the five objects I asked you to remember? 1 point for each one correct.

8. I am going to give you a series of numbers and I would like you to give them to me backwards. For example, if I say 42, you would say 24.

0 87

1 648

1 8537

\_\_\_/2

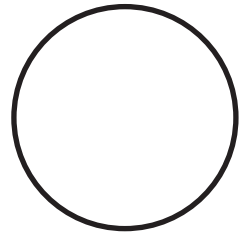
9. This is a clock face. Please put in the hour markers and the time at ten minutes to eleven o'clock.

2 Hour markers okay

2 Time correct

\_\_\_/4

1 10. Please place an X in the triangle.



\_\_\_/2

1 Which of the above figures is largest?

11. I am going to tell you a story. Please listen carefully because afterwards, I'm going to ask you some questions about it.

Jill was a very successful stockbroker. She made a lot of money on the stock market. She then met Jack, a devastatingly handsome man. She married him and had three children. They lived in Chicago. She then stopped work and stayed at home to bring up her children. When they were teenagers, she went back to work. She and Jack lived happily ever after.

2 What was the female's name?

2 What work did she do?

2 When did she go back to work?

2 What state did she live in?

\_\_\_/8

TOTAL SCORE

## SCORING

### HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

27-30

21-26

1-20

NORMAL

MILD NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER

DEMENTIA

### LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

25-30

20-24

1-19

CLINICIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

TIME