Summary of The Snapshot Research and Findings

Research Activities
G32+ Summits
The Enrollment Management Association established a character assessment working group called the “G32” that was comprised of 46 member schools. A summit with the G32 has been hosted annually by The Enrollment Management Association to guide the development of The Snapshot. The name gained the “+” after an additional set of schools joined the group.

1. Fall 2014 summit to introduce the idea and identify constructs
2. Summer 2015 summit to discuss Pilot Test I results
3. Summer 2016 summit to discuss Pilot Test II results, score reports, and The Snapshot use cases
4. Spring 2017 summit to discuss Pilot Test III results, updated score report information, assessment platform appearance, and predictive validity study

Cognitive Labs
We conducted several cognitive labs in the early stages of The Snapshot development to explore student thought processes as they completed assessment items. For researchers, this exploration typically provides information about student understanding of the item content, why a student responds to an item in a particular way, the threat of student fatigue, and areas of distress that students might experience (e.g., when making a difficult choice in a forced-choice item).

1. Spring 2015 cognitive lab at Riverdale Country School (NY) to determine forced-choice item format (N = 15)
2. Fall 2015 cognitive labs at Kamehameha Schools (HI), Mid-Pacific Institute (HI), and The Lawrenceville School (NJ) (N = 35)
3. Summer 2017 Focus Groups at Phillips Academy (MA) (N = 15)

Pilot Tests
Pilot tests are a critical step in the assessment development process because they provide opportunities to examine the psychometric properties of an assessment and tweak the assessment as needed to make it more reliable and valid. Pilot tests are also useful because they help researchers gauge seat time.

1. Spring 2015 Pilot Test I: Pre-test of Likert statements (N ≈ 1,400)
2. Fall 2015 Pilot Test II: Pretesting of forced-choice and situational judgment items (N ≈ 5,400)
3. Fall 2016 Pilot Test III: Field test of a The Snapshot form that contained forced-choice and situational judgment items (N ≈ 4,500)

N indicates the number of participants in a given sample.
Surveys

1. Fall 2014 survey conducted with G32 admissions professionals to determine constructs

2. Spring 2016 survey conducted with G32 to answer five questions:
   + What are the qualities of a successful student?
   + What type of information is most helpful in a score report?
   + What labels best fit the proposed constructs measured by The Snapshot?
   + How do you intend to use scores provided by The Snapshot?
   + What information is used to make admissions decisions in your school?

User Experience Testing

1. Spring 2017: Individual sessions with families, schools and/or students to determine how to present The Snapshot results (N ≈ 50)

Future Research Studies

While The Snapshot, bolstered by significant research efforts already, launched on September 25, 2017, it is still important to conduct research to monitor and improve The Snapshot reliability and validity. This is a list of ongoing or planned future studies.

1. Cut score study to determine best procedure for specifying The Snapshot score ranges

2. Predictive validity study to explore relationships between The Snapshot and student outcomes

3. Convergent validity study to examine agreement between self- and other-evaluations of The Snapshot skills

4. Additional pilot testing for subgroup populations, e.g. international students, students with disabilities, etc.

5. Implementation studies to determine how The Snapshot will be used in admissions office

6. Focus groups with families