

Goals of the Core Curriculum: A Draft Proposal

**CRPT Faculty Meeting
Nov. 30, 2017**

CRPT Schedule...

- **Today:** We seek your feedback in order to finalize the language of a Core Goals statement for December 7
- **December 7:** Faculty vote (we hope!) on a statement of Goals of the Core Curriculum. Articulation of values and a guidepost for us!
- **January 19/20 (Mark your calendars for Friday afternoon/evening and all day Saturday!)**
 - Strategic planning/design session on constraints and implementation guidelines for the Core
 - Facilitators: Drs. Cassandra Horii and Jenn Weaver (Caltech Center for Teaching, Learning, & Outreach)

Inputs towards understanding the interests of the HMC community...

- Surveys of faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- Departmental questionnaire
- Faculty and community meetings this fall
- Presentations to alumni and trustees
- Feedback on core goals statement presented on Nov. 9

Visiting Committee (Nov. 13-15)

- Mandate **was** to examine the implementation of the current Core
- Mandate **was not** to articulate a mission for the Core nor propose a new Core
- External review committee report expected in mid-December; will help inform discussions at January 19/20 session

“Core Values”

- Originally... High level learning goals + bullet list of “guiding principles”
- Based on your feedback, we recommend...
 - High level learning goals (TODAY)
 - Constraints and implementation guidelines (JANUARY)

Statement of Goals of the Core Curriculum:

The Core Curriculum at Harvey Mudd College seeks to nurture students' intellectual curiosity and joy of learning, provide them with foundational knowledge and skills needed for advanced study in STEM disciplines, and begin a critical engagement with the humanities, social sciences, and the arts. In keeping with HMC's STEM-focused approach to liberal arts education, the Core introduces students to thinking critically about consequential problems and complex issues, making connections across disciplinary boundaries, communicating and collaborating effectively, and understanding how their personal and professional actions impact the world around them.

Proposed Constraints and Implementation Guidelines (springboard for Jan 19/20 sessions)

Let's zoom in on two of these!

Proposed constraints:

- (i) The Core Curriculum at Harvey Mudd College is jointly owned and governed by all departments.
- (ii) In service to achieving excellence in reaching our Core goals, the curriculum is equitable and inclusive, recognizing that students enter our college with different barriers and opportunities for education, leadership, and wellness;
- (iii) The Core observes a workload that provides students with time for activities and obligations other than coursework.
- (iv) Within the context of joint ownership and governance, the Core allows each department the flexibility to present a set of major ideas and methods from its discipline in addition to contributing to a set of foundations that form common expectations for the core.
- (v) All departments have at least one course in the Core.
- (vi) Any revision of the Core will be implemented coincident with the allocation of appropriate resources.

Proposed implementation guidelines:

- (vii) The Core provides flexible pathways for all HMC students in order to accommodate differences in background and preparation.
- (viii) The 128-unit graduation requirement is reduced to allow more flexibility throughout a student's time at the college, including while in the Core.
- (ix) The entire first year is pass-fail.
- (x) Some Core-course requirements can be completed before graduation instead of before the end of the 3rd semester.

Zooming in on some of these...

- (i) The Core Curriculum at Harvey Mudd College is jointly owned and governed by all departments.
- (ii) In service to achieving excellence in reaching our Core goals, the curriculum is equitable and inclusive, recognizing that students enter our college with different barriers and opportunities for education, leadership, and wellness.

Proposed Constraints and Implementation Guidelines

- The list is generated from themes we have heard throughout the fall
- This is **not** meant to be a complete list: could add or subtract items
- Waiting for additional feedback from external review report anticipated in mid-December
- Springboard for January 19/20 core design kick-off

We're making no assumptions that the core will necessarily change

Statement of Goals of the Core Curriculum:

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Green text indicates changes from last time we saw this