



**Family Weekend**  
**Academic Affairs**

**Friday February 7, 2018**  
**Lori Bassman**  
**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**

# What we'll touch on

- Student paths through the curriculum  
Core, majors, HSA
- Academic resources
- Summer plans
- Questions

# First-year students

- Mostly core this semester
- Core samples all disciplines

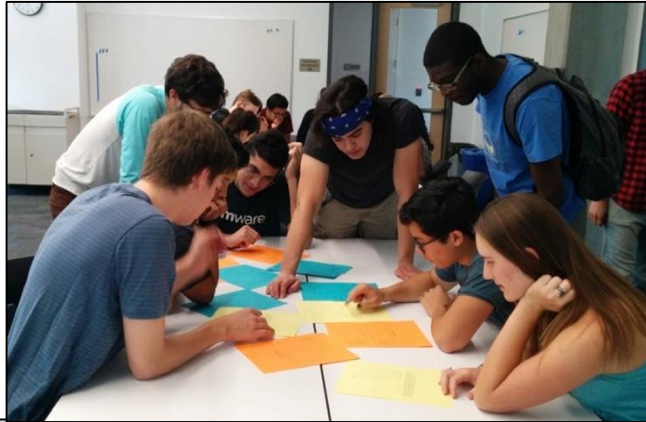
Currently: biology, physics (mechanics), chemistry, linear algebra, differential equations, HSA10 (Critical Inquiry, multiple discipline choices), lab

- Building blocks for what students do later

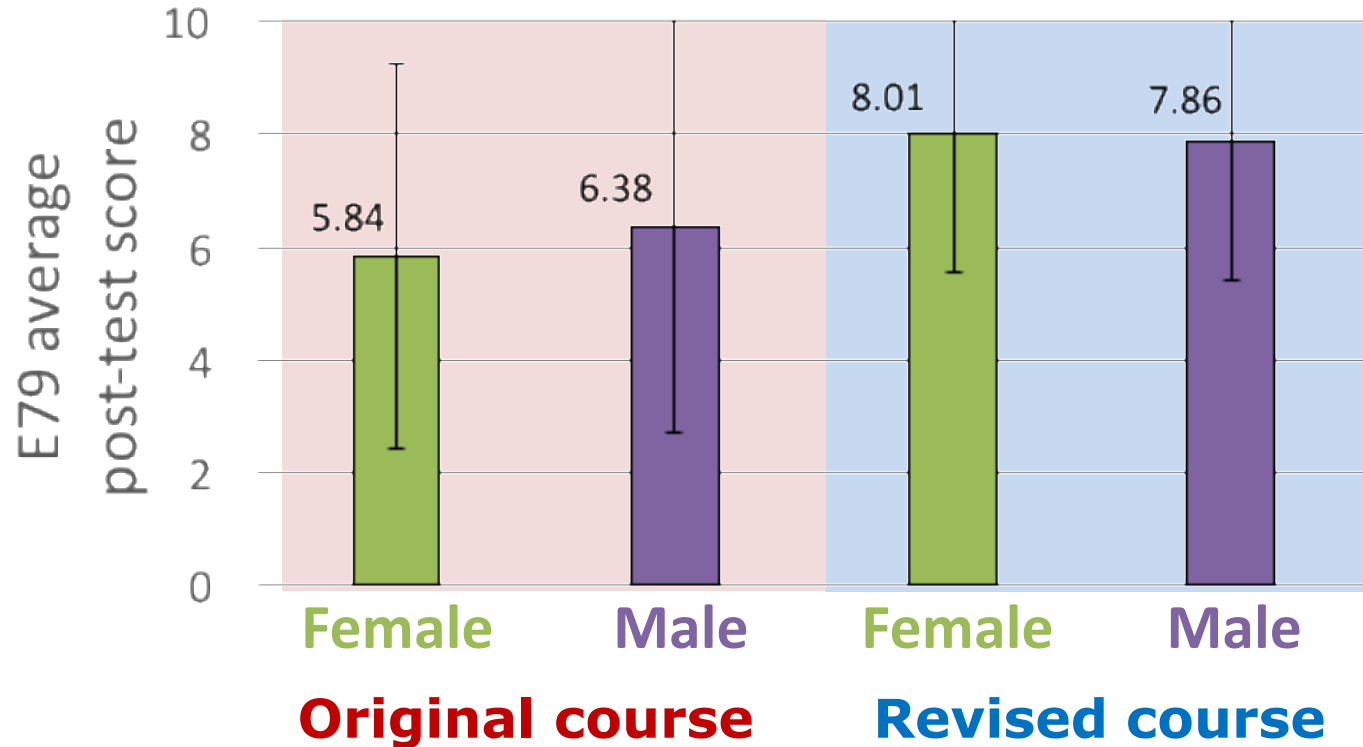
# Sophomore/junior students

- Sophomores beginning to focus on majors – for many GPAs rise
- Juniors solidly in majors and looking toward capstone research/Clinic
- Continuing work on HSA requirements
- Planning path to 128 units

# Core revision



# Core revision



# What should they be learning about?

- **Majors**
  - Required courses
  - Major electives
  - Capstone experiences (research, Clinic)
  - Individual program of studies and off-campus majors

## Resources

- **Registrar**
- First-year or major advisor, plus major professors
- Website, catalogue, resources sent by registrar
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

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- ...other students



# What should they be learning about?

- **Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts**
  - Ten courses beyond the core
  - Concentration and distribution requirements
  - Writing intensive course
  - Minimum five on-campus courses

## Resources

- **HSA advisor**
- HSA professors
- Registrar
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- ...other students

# What should they be learning about?

- **Units**

- 128 to graduate
- Core + major + HSA  $\neq$  128
- Number of free units is major-dependent
- Average load 16 units per semester (5 classes plus lab/PE/colloquium)
- There are ways to “catch up”

- **Capstone experience**

- CS, Engineering: all Clinic
- Math, Physics: departments offer Clinic or research
- Biology, Chemistry: departments offer research, but Clinic available

# Places to get help

- **Professor office hours**
- Academic Excellence for core, departmental programs for majors
- Writing center
- Working in groups
- Older students

# Places to get advice

- Advisors, professors in classes, department chairs
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (me)
  - Students can self-schedule appointments
  - Pre-registration meeting (early April)
    - Keeping options open
    - Summer
    - Upcoming requirements
- Student leadership
  - Proctors, mentors
  - PALs (Peer Academic Liaisons)

# Summer – what to do with it?

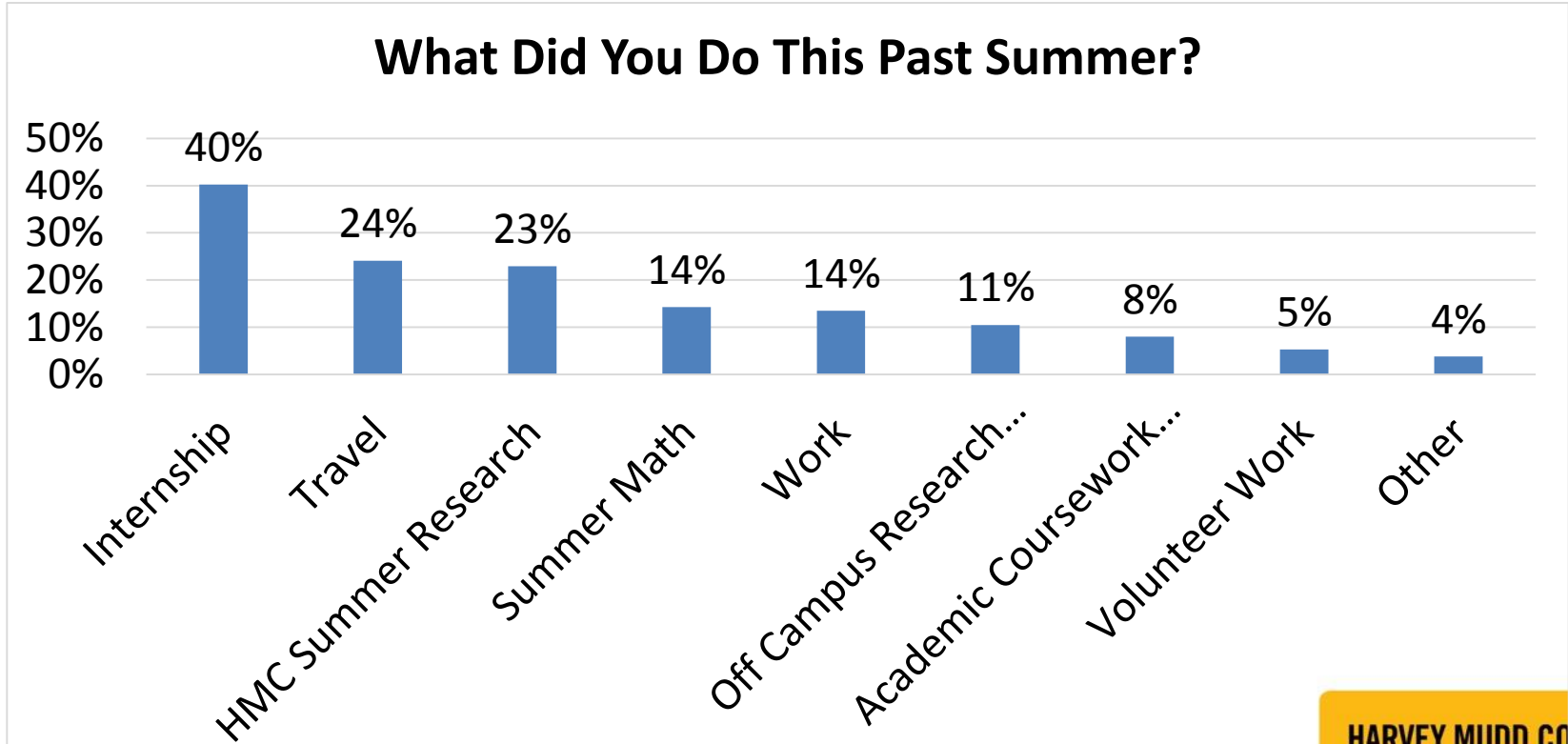
- Spend time with family
- Decompress
- Internship
- Work
- Travel
- Summer research
- Summer math

# Summer experiences

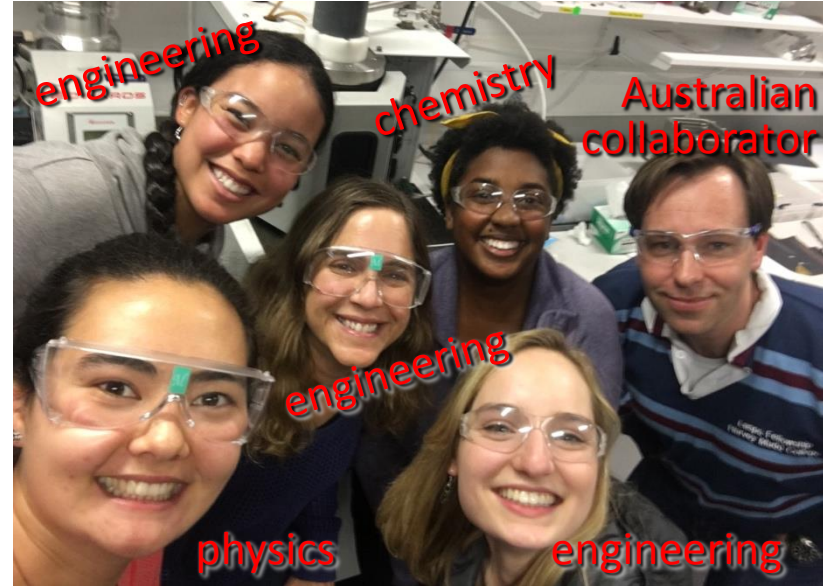
- Pressure to credential is enormous
- No evidence any one summer makes a huge difference for “next steps”
  - Good, just not critical
  - Definitely not critical for first-years!
  - Grad schools want HMC students
  - Clinic guarantees work-like experience

# Student summer experience survey

(n=266, rising sophs/juniors/seniors)



# Summer research





# Summer research

- 10 week immersive experience
- \$4800 stipend
- Close to 200 students work with 40+ faculty each summer
- All departments well represented



# Summer math

- Two half-courses normally taken in sophomore fall
- Costs: tuition, room and board
- Students will say:
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  - “need it to take major courses”Really: they want to be with friends
- A fine thing, but definitely not critical

# Questions?



