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

Original course

Revised course
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
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
  – …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 ≠ 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)

What Did You Do This Past Summer?

- Internship: 40%
- Travel: 24%
- Summer Math: 23%
- Work: 14%
- Off Campus Research: 14%
- Academic Coursework: 11%
- Volunteer Work: 8%
- Other: 5%
- HMC Summer Research: 4%
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:
  – “makes sophomore year easier”
  – “need it to take major courses”
Summer math

- Two half-courses normally taken in sophomore fall
- Costs: tuition, room and board
- Students will say:
  - “makes sophomore year easier”
  - “need it to take major courses”
Really: they want to be with friends
Summer math

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