



**What do we know about HSU students?  
President's Council  
February, 2003**

# What do we know about HSU students?



Rees Hughes, Director,  
Student Life

Steve Butler, Vice President, Student Affairs

With substantial additional credit and thanks to Rick Vrem, John Filce, Bryce Kyburz, Susan Wesley and Ceema Feizollahi

# Overview

- ◆ “Pre-test”
- ◆ Who are HSU students?
- ◆ Perceptions of HSU
- ◆ What do we know about their HSU experience?
  - ◆ Academic experiences
  - ◆ Non-Academic experiences
- ◆ Overall satisfaction
- ◆ What we have not talked about

# Who are HSU students?

- 55.2% are female and 44.8% are male
- 86.3% are undergraduate and 13.7% are post-baccalaureate
- 23.2% of undergraduates are 25 years of age or older
- 11.5% of undergraduates are classified as part-time



- Of undergraduates:
  - **37.6% are seniors**
  - **26.4% are juniors**
  - **14.4% are sophomores**
  - **21.6% are freshmen**

## Ethnicity

- White - 63%
- Unknown - 17.4%
- Hispanic - 7.9%
- Other - 3.3%
- Asian American/Pacific Islander - 3.3%
- Native American - 2.6%
- African American - 2.5%



## Who are HSU students?

### Geographic Origin (undergraduates)

- Humboldt County - 21.2%
- Los Angeles/San Diego - 19.9%
- Bay Area - 16.5%
- Out of State - 14.8%
- Northern California - 14.8%
- Central California - 12.2%
- Foreign - .6%

# Who are HSU students?

## From the 1999 SNAPS data:

- HSU parents tend to be more educated than CSU parents (still nearly one quarter of mothers and fathers of HSU students have a high school diploma or less)
- Fewer HSU students work full time (7% vs. 20% system wide)
- Factors influencing students interest in HSU (10% or more difference from system wide data):



- **Geographic setting**
  - (78.3% HSU vs. 51.6% system wide)
- **Campus Appearance** (70.2% vs. 47.4%)
- **Campus size** (68.3% vs. 37.6%)
- **Chance to leave home** (54.4% vs. 27.7%)
- **Obtain non-need based scholarship** (38.2% HSU vs. 48.8% system wide)
- **Safety factors** (42.2% HSU vs. 54.5% system wide)

# Who are HSU students?

When compared to Medium-Selective Public Colleges and Universities, HSU Freshmen are:

More than 10% above the comparison group

- When compared with peers- creativity, spirituality, and writing ability
- Felt overwhelmed by all they had to do, asked a teacher for advice after class, overslept or missed class, discussed politics, socialized with someone of another racial ethnic group, came late to class, visited an art, gallery or museum, or discussed religion



More than 10% above the comparison group

- Writing original works, creating artistic work, becoming involved in programs to clean up the environment, and developing a philosophy of life are essential or very important
- Student estimates that chances are very good that he/she will need extra time to complete degree, participate in student protests or demonstrations, be satisfied with their college choice, participate in volunteer or community service; seek personal counseling, communicate regularly with professors, and socialize with someone of another racial/ethnic group
- Characterize political views as liberal or far left

# Who are HSU students?

More than 10% below the comparison group

- Come from household where the parents are still together
- When compared with peers-competitiveness and self-understanding
- Feel need for tutoring in math
- Attended religious service in the last year
- Raising a family, obtaining recognition from my colleagues for contributions to my field, having administrative responsibility for the work of others, being well off financially is essential or very important
- To make money was very important in deciding to go to college
- Choose this college because graduates get good jobs



# Who are HSU students?

- Cigarette use: - 70% have never used or not in 30 days  
- only 10% use daily
- Alcohol use: - 24% have never used or not in 30 days  
- only 2% use daily  
-(the PERCEPTION is that 37% use daily)
- Marijuana: -11% indicate that they use daily  
-(the PERCEPTION is that 51% use daily)
- Proportion of students who indicate that they are gay/lesbian or bisexual  
8.6%

\* n-1101 2002 National College Health Assessment

# Who are HSU students?

- Sex:
  - 71% indicated that they had not had sex or had sex with one partner
  - (the PERCEPTION was that only 11% were in that category)
  - over half indicated that they had not used a condom the last time they had sex
- Within the last school year, have you experienced sexual touching against your will?
  - 12% of Women said yes
  - 3% of Men said yes
- Diagnosed with depression:
  - 9% of male respondents
  - 20% of female respondents
- 6.5% of our students had over \$5,000 of unpaid balance on their credit cards last month

# Perceptions of HSU

## **Humboldt Rated Above Competitor Institutions in:**

- Size of Academic Classes
- Attractiveness of Campus
- Cost of Attendance
- Personal Attention
- Undergraduate Teaching Commitment
- Surroundings
- Quality of On-Campus Housing
- Availability of Recreational Facilities
- Extra-Curricular Opportunities

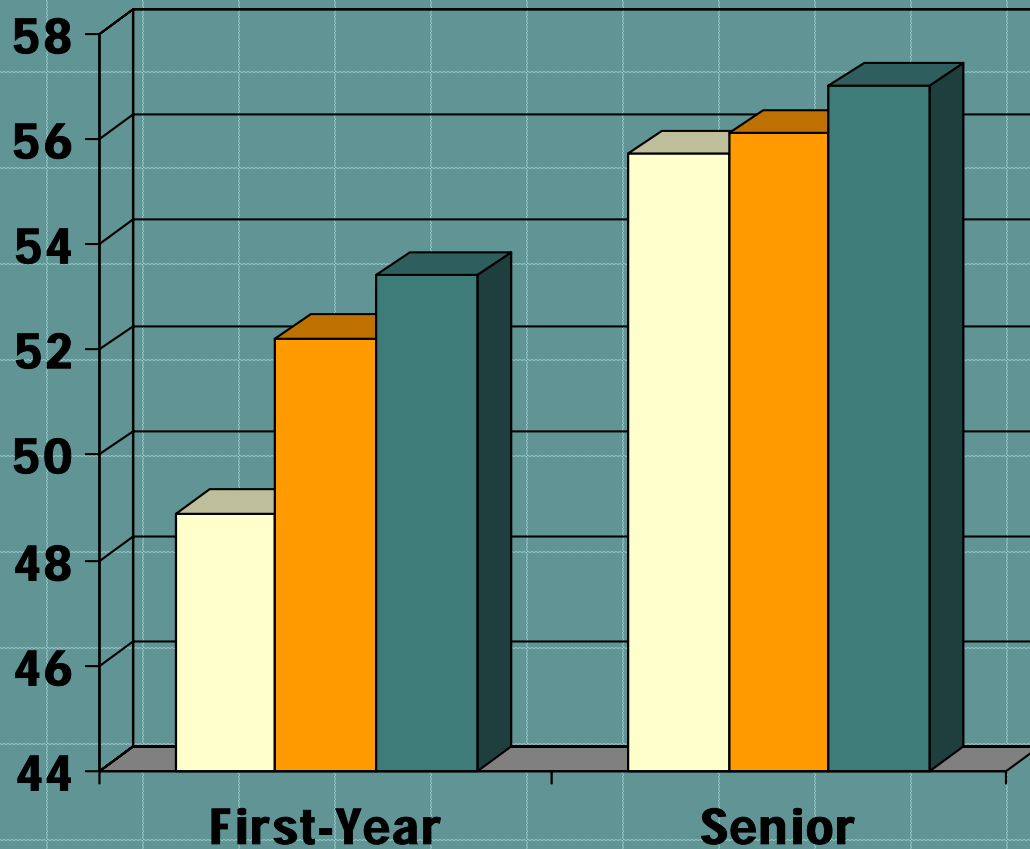
## **Humboldt Rated Below Competitor Institutions in:**

- Academic Reputation
- Quality of Academic Facilities
- Availability of Majors
- Merit Scholarships Available
- Special Academic Programs
- Quality of Social Life
- Access to Off-Campus Activities

\*ASQ Data from Fall 2000  
Applicants

# What do we know about their HSU experience?

## Level of Academic Challenge:



	FY	SR
HSU	48.9	55.7
Master's	52.2	56.1
National	53.4	57.0

- HSU
- Master's
- National

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)  
November 2002

## Level of Academic Challenge

Freshmen:

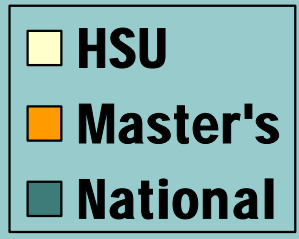
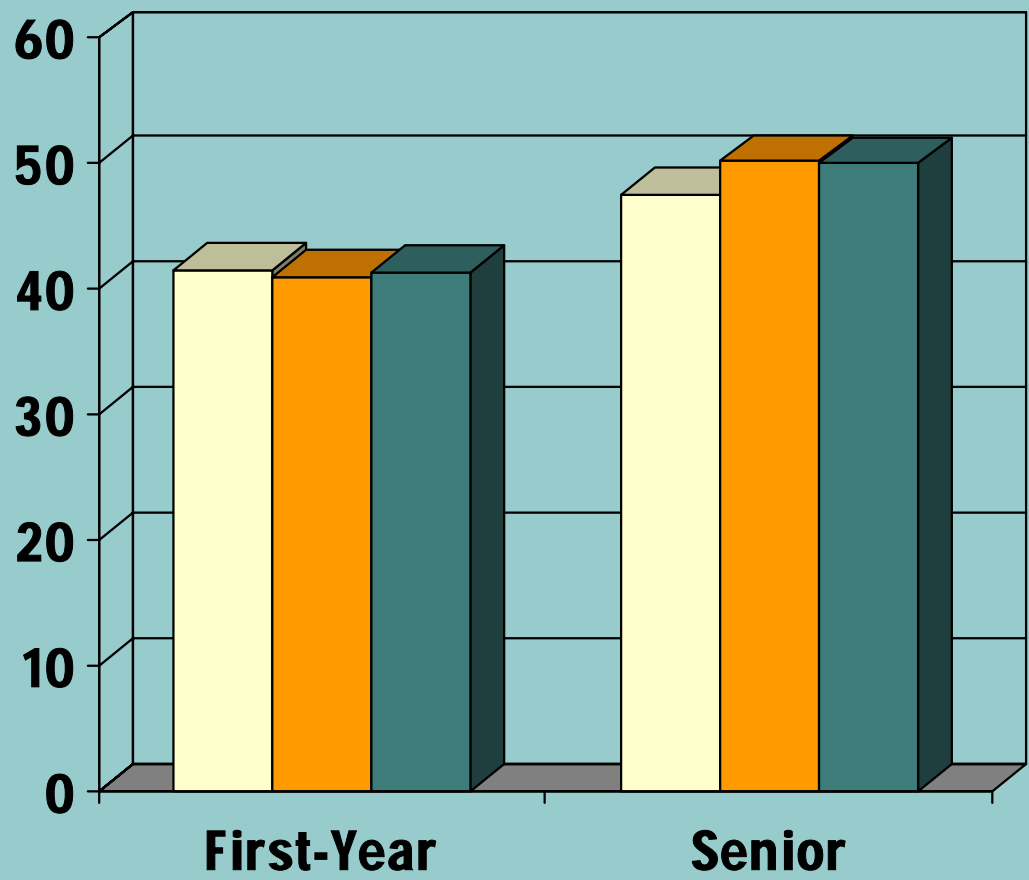
<i><b>FRESHMEN</b></i>	<i><b>HSU</b></i>	<i><b>CSU</b></i>
<i>Made a class presentation</i>	30%	44%
<i>Came to class unprepared</i>	29%	19%
<i>Papers between 5-19 pages</i>	31%	41%
<i>Exams were challenging</i>	43%	52%
<i>Emphasis on spending academic time</i>	65%	76%

Seniors:

<i><b>SENIORS</b></i>	<i><b>HSU</b></i>	<i><b>CSU</b></i>
<i>Made a class presentation</i>	48%	63%
<i>Came to class unprepared</i>	32%	19%
<i>5 or more papers between 5-19 pages</i>	46%	51%
<i>Worked on research with faculty</i>	34%	19%
<i>Emphasis on spending academic time</i>	69%	79%
<i>Number of papers with 20 or more pages</i>	38%	52%
<i>Worked harder to meet expectations</i>	49%	58%

# What do we know about their HSU experience?

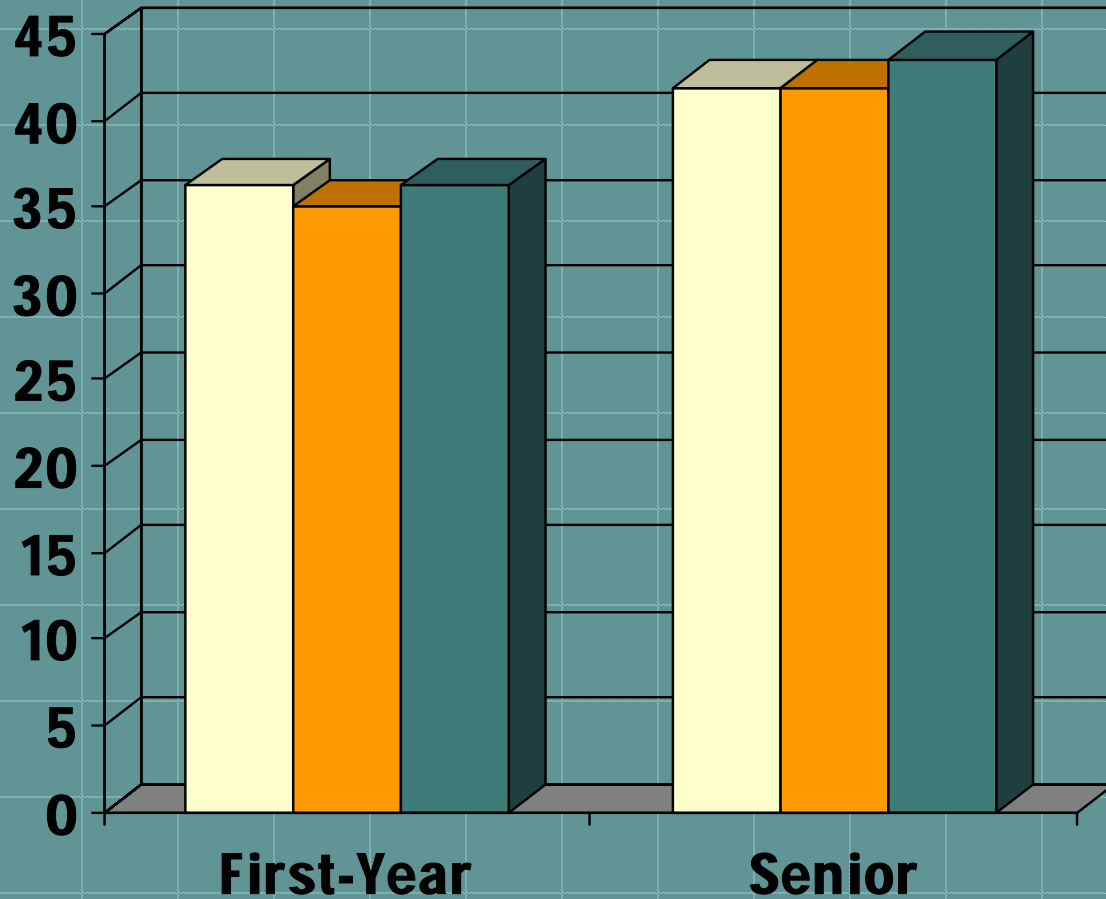
## Active and Collaborative Learning:



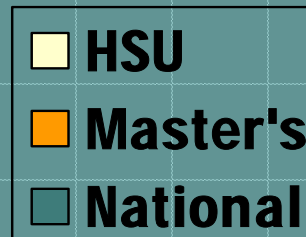
	FY	SR
HSU	41.5	47.5
Master's	40.9	50.1
National	41.3	49.9

# What do we know about their HSU experience?

## Student-Faculty Interactions:

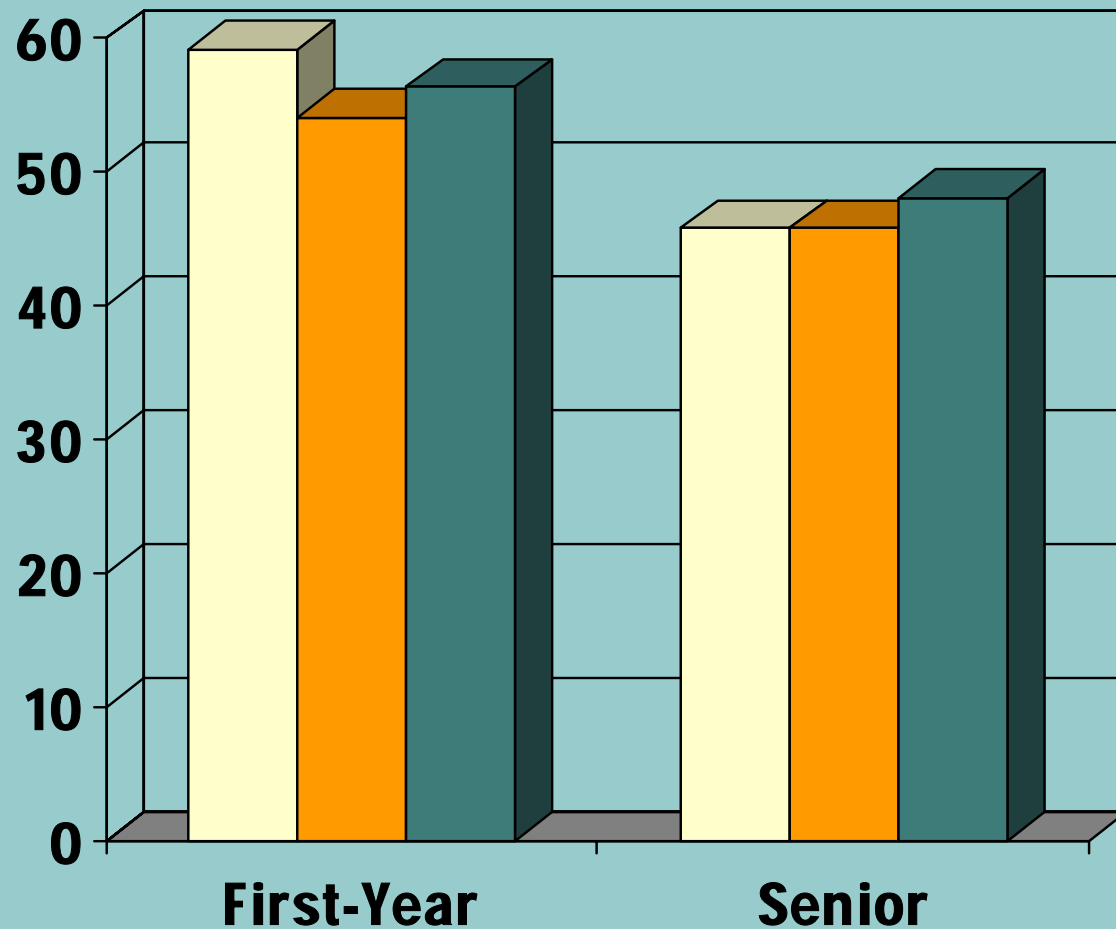


	FY	SR
HSU	36.2	41.9
Master's	35.0	41.9
National	36.2	43.5

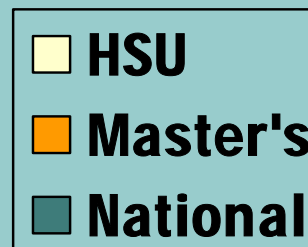


# What do we know about their HSU experience?

## Enriching Educational Experiences:

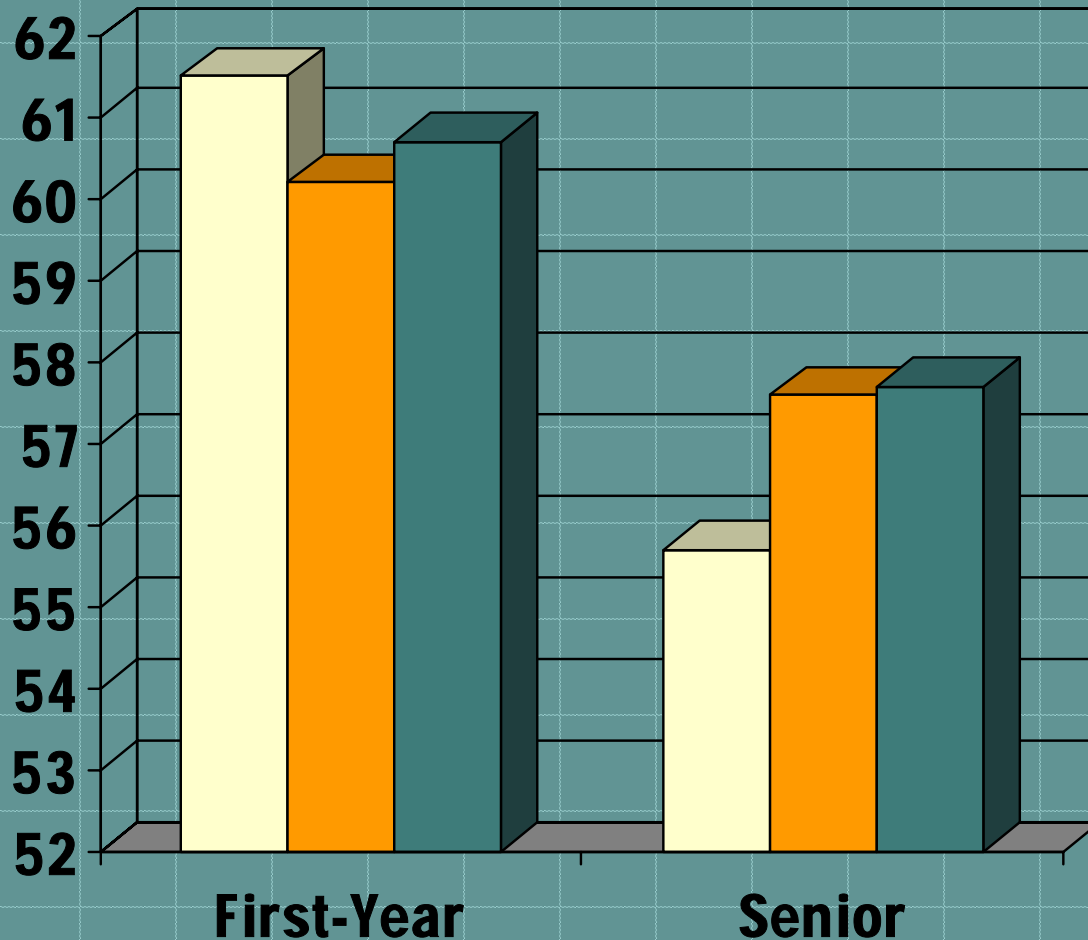


	FY	SR
HSU	59.1	45.7
Master's	54.0	45.7
National	56.3	48.0

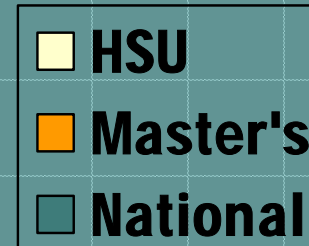


# What do we know about their HSU experience?

## Supportive Campus Environment:



	FY	SR
HSU	61.5	55.7
Master's	60.2	57.6
National	60.7	57.7



# Overall Satisfaction

**There is a consistent record of high satisfaction:**

“How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?”

	<i>HSU</i>	<i>CSU</i>	<i>Master's Institutions</i>
<i>First-Year</i>	3.21	3.03***	3.12*
<i>Senior</i>	3.27	3.08***	3.12

“If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?”

	<i>HSU</i>	<i>CSU</i>	<i>Master's Institutions</i>
<i>First-Year</i>	3.27	3.07***	3.12*
<i>Senior</i>	3.22	3.06***	3.12

NSSE (2002) \* P < .05 \*\*\* P < .001

<i>SNAPS (1999)</i>	<i>HSU</i>	<i>CSU</i>
“I am pleased with my overall experience on this campus.”	84.7%	69.5%
“If choosing a university again, I would choose this one.”	75.8%	64.7%
“I would recommend this university to others.”	83.8%	71.3%

% agreed or strongly agreed

# What we have not talked about

- ◆ Residence Hall Satisfaction Survey Information (annually)
- ◆ Graduate Survey Information (annually)
  - ◆ College Student Experiences Survey
- ◆ (CSEQ) Study comparing HSU and UCLA undergraduates (Buzz Webb and Bob Pace, 1995)
- ◆ "African American Student Perceptions at Humboldt State University: A Focus Group Study Report" (Rakin Hall, 1998)
- ◆ ... and much more

