

Bridging the Gap

Connecting Institutional Data and SoTL

Wabash College
March 2009

When we visit a campus we

1. Look at what they already have
2. Talk with students

Important facts about surveys

1. Everyone has them
2. No one uses them
3. They are bland
4. They are a record of a conversation

Are our students working too hard?

Northeast College

- Cold in winter
- SAT > 1350
- > 2000 students
- First-year program
- Over 50% study abroad
- Atypical calendar
- 4-yr grad rate 85%
- Economics

Midwest College

- Cold in winter
- SAT > 1250
- < 2000 students
- First-year program
- Over 60% study abroad
- Atypical calendar
- Senior capstone
- 4-yr grad rate 73%
- Biology

Northeast College

- Students complain about workload

Midwest College

- Do students need more balance and a sense of fun?

About how many hours in a typical week do you spend preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework, or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities?)

1 = 0 hours

2 = 1-5 hours

3 = 6-10 hours

4 = 11-15 hours

5 = 16-20 hours

6 = 21-25 hours

7 = 26-30 hours

8 = More than 30 hours

	<i>Hrs/week preparing for class</i>
0 hours	<1%
1-5 hours	10%
6-10 hours	22%
11-15 hours	22%
16-20 hours	19%
21-25 hours	14%
26-30 hours	7%
More than 30 hours	6%

Northeast College

- First year \approx 22 hrs/week
 - 7% < 10 hrs/week
- Senior \approx 20 hrs/week
 - 16% < 10 hrs/week

Midwest College

- First year \approx 18 hrs/week
 - 17% < 10 hrs/week
- Senior \approx 21 hrs/week
 - 12% < 10 hrs/week

Talking with students

Northeast College

- Jittery
- Staying in on Friday night to work
- Busy work
- Assignments that don't count
- Faculty grade easy?

Midwest College

- Calm
- “Work is good”
- Transition between year 2 and 3
- Waking at 4:30 AM to create balance

Northeast College

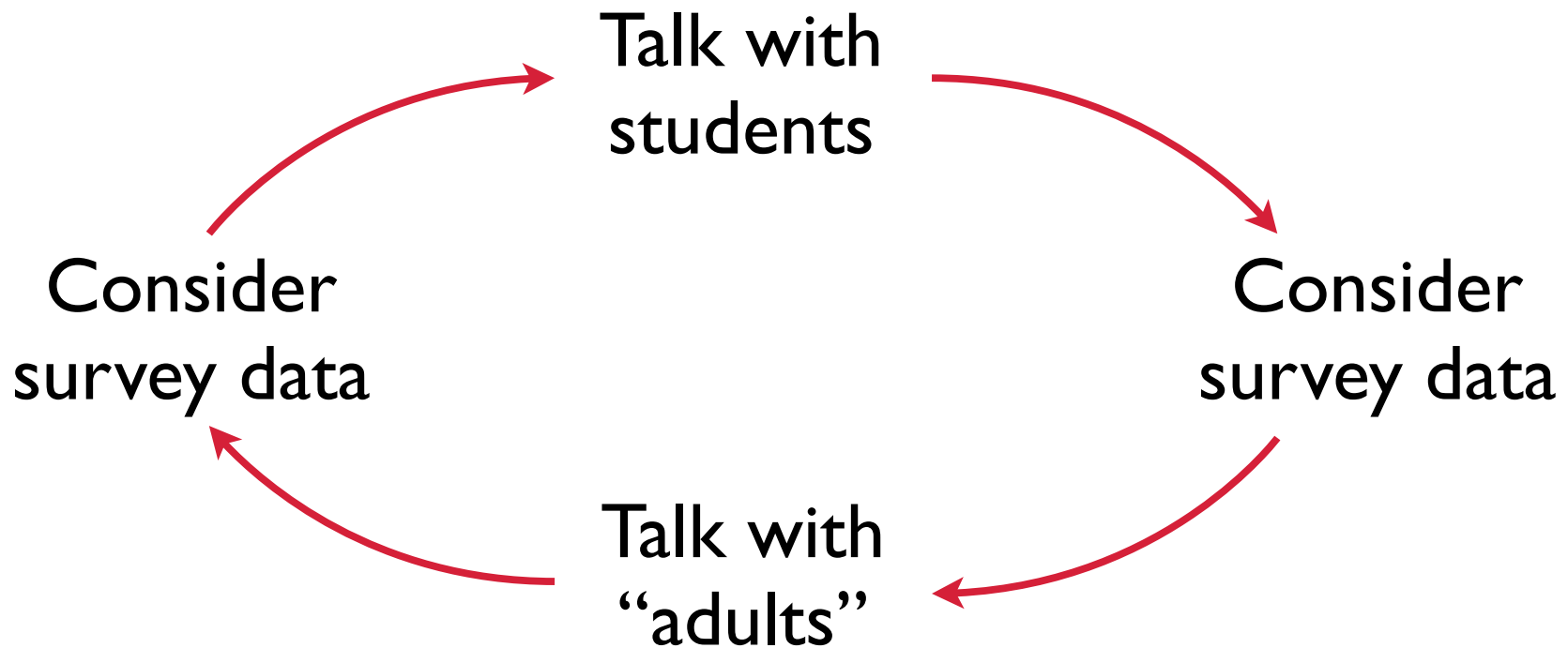
- Short papers and assigned readings
- Higher extracurricular involvement
- Less work for pay
- Higher self-assessed growth

Midwest College

- Greater engagement with faculty and service learning
- More likely to collaborate academically with peers
- Less favorable view of peers and administrators

Review

- Similar survey data \neq Similar environments
- Recursive process



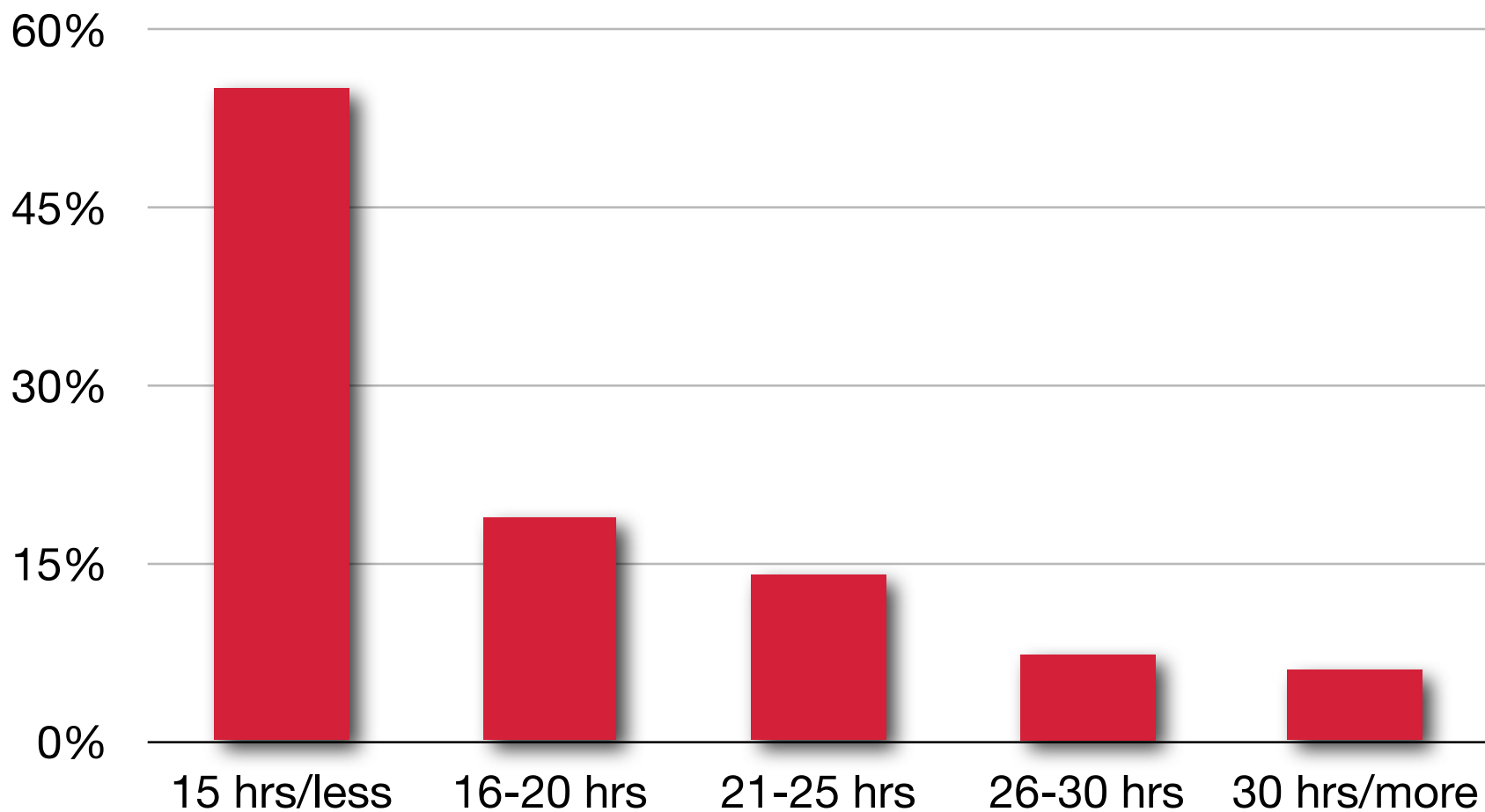
Current thinking . . .

- **Northeast College**
 - Students work hard, *but*
 - ▶ There is busy work
 - ▶ Faculty could be more intellectually demanding
 - ▶ Senior year could be more challenging

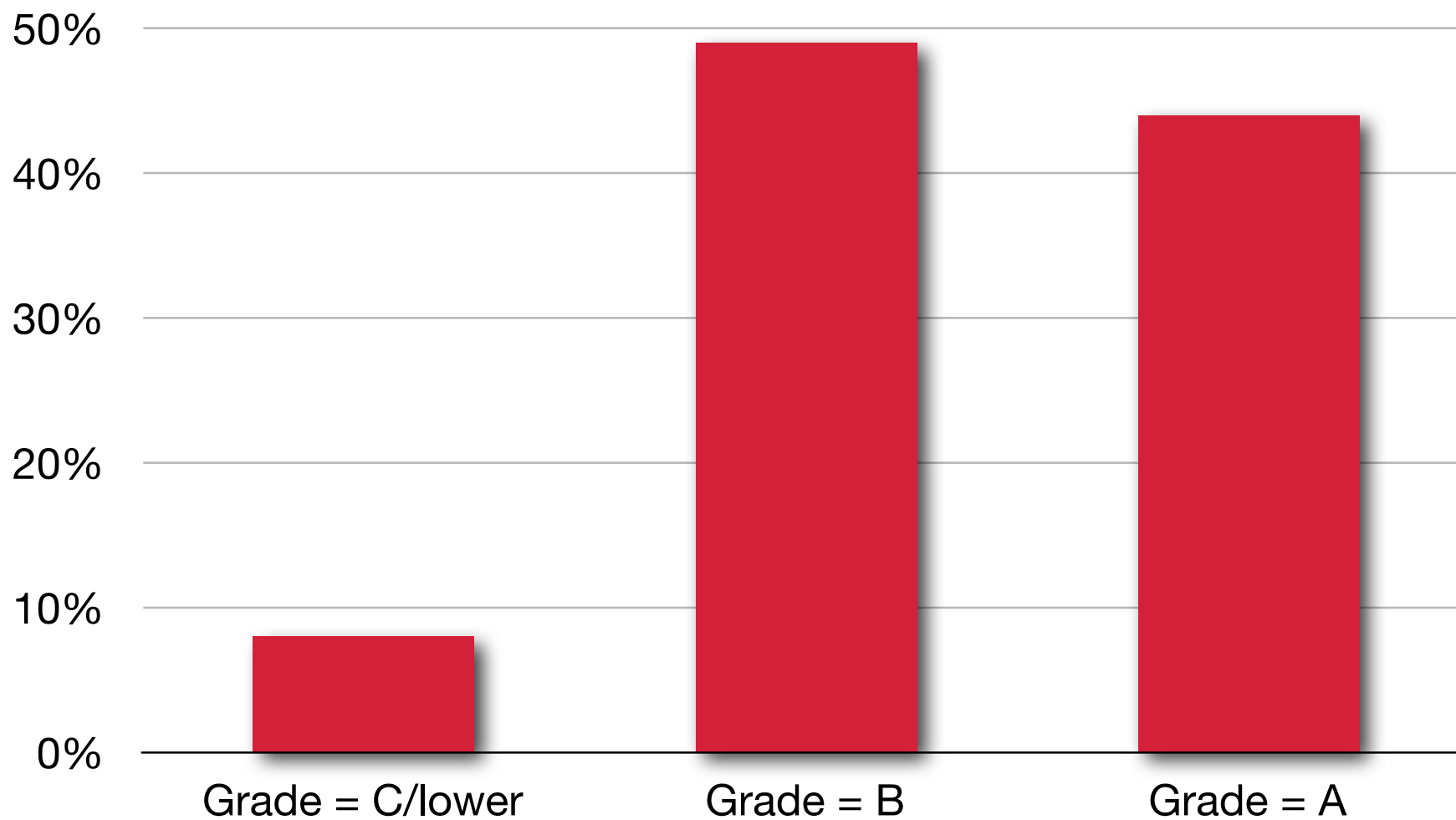
- **Midwest College**
 - Students work hard, *and*
 - ▶ The work is challenging students to think (and they enjoy it)
 - ▶ Working both on and off campus impacts the campus social environment
 - ▶ High-intensity senior project impacts the campus social environment

Does spending time
preparing for class matter?

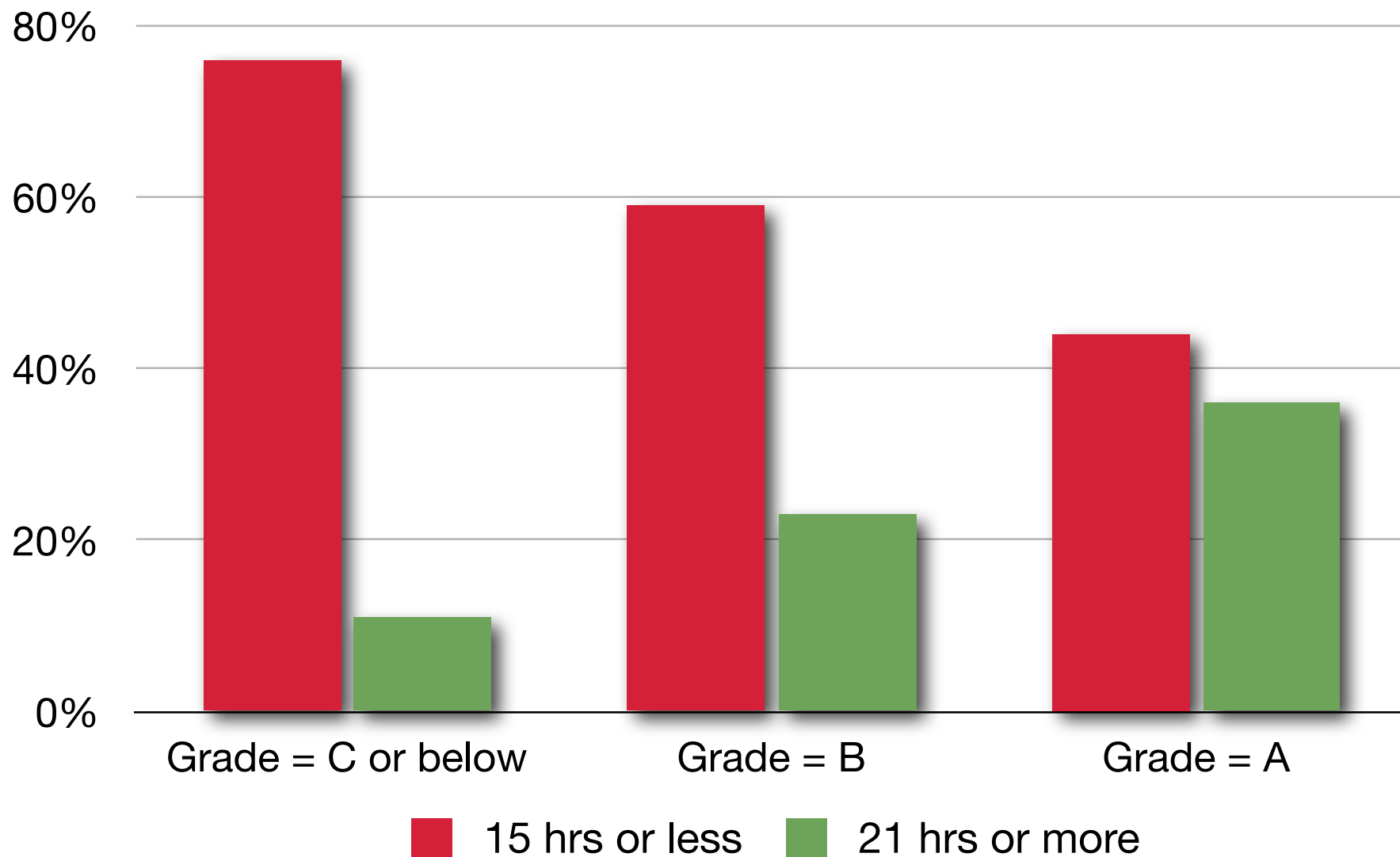
Hrs/week preparing for class



What have most of your grades been?



Relationship between preparation and grades



***Hrs/week preparing
for class***

Critical Thinking	+
Contribution to Science	+
Contribution to the Arts	-
Political/Social Involvement	+
Leadership	+
Academic Motivation	+
Well Being	+
Literacy	+
Openness to Diversity/Challenge	+
Moral Reasoning	+
Need for Cognition	+
Universality/Diversity Awareness	+