



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Momentum Year Course Load Analysis

Lori Prince Hagood
Research and Policy Analysis

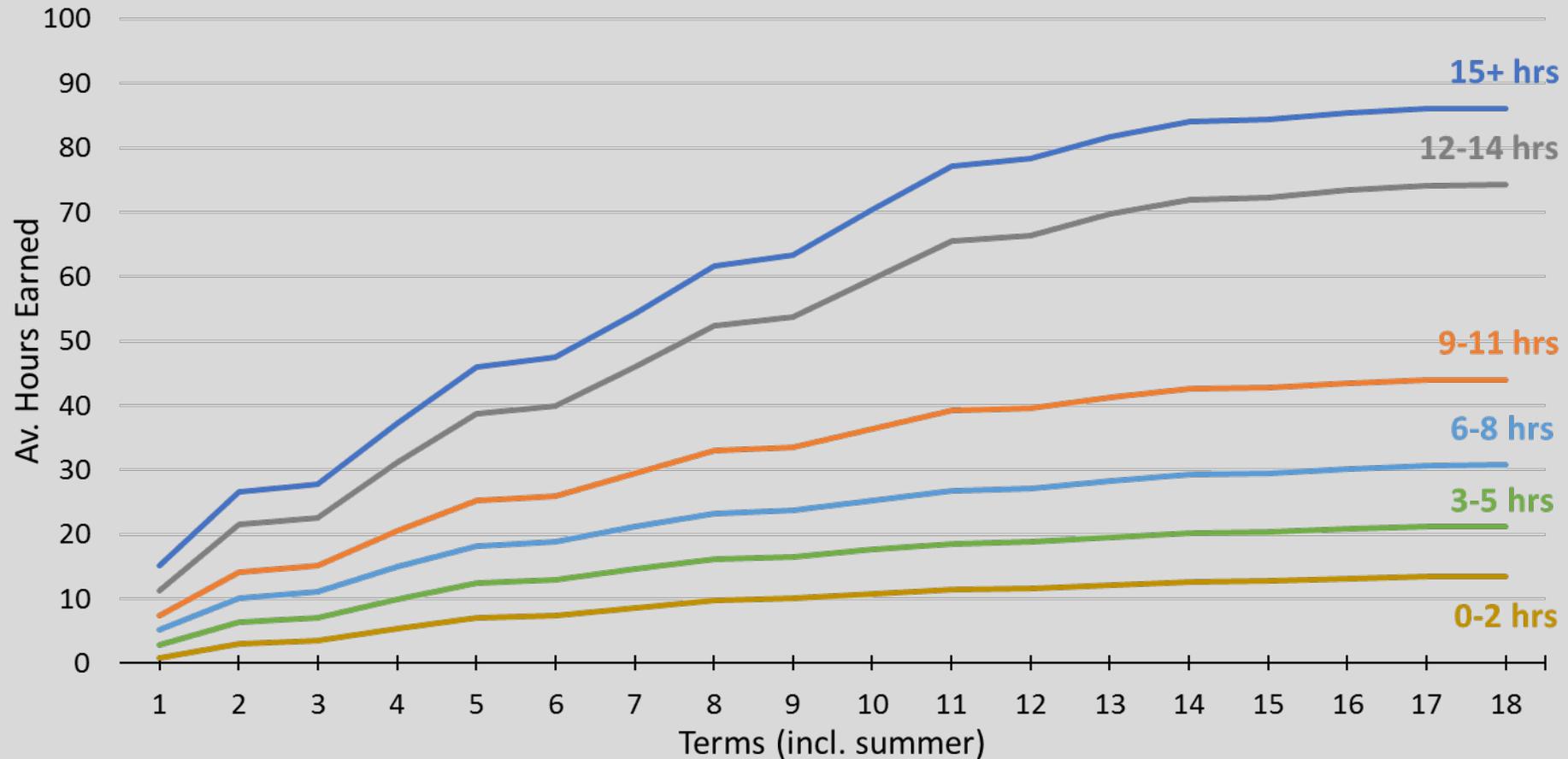
Momentum Summit III
January 28, 2020
Athens, GA

Impact of Initial Course Load on Long-term Outcomes

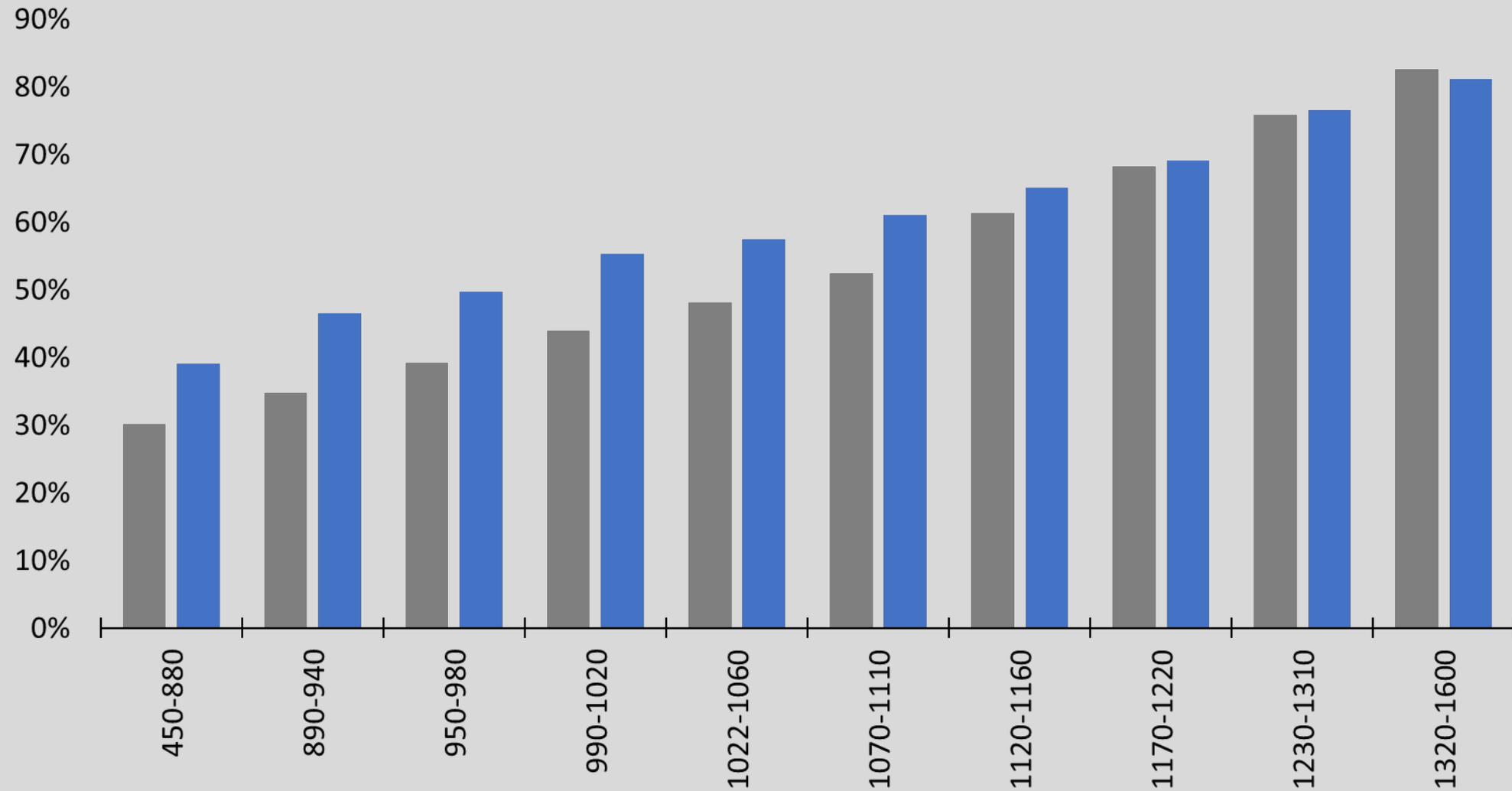
- Study is modeled after Belfield, Jenkins, and Lahr (2016)
- Compared likelihood of graduation and credit hour accumulation within 6 years
 - Non-momentum students: 12-14 hours in first term (< 30 in first year)
 - Momentum students: 15+ hours in first term (30+ in first year)
- FTF in Fall 2008-2011 who attempted at least 12 hours in their first term
 - First year analyses exclude students not enrolled for a full academic year
- Propensity Score Matching reduces baseline differences between momentum and non-momentum students
 - Nearest neighbor matching
 - Matched on gender, race, financial aid in the first term, HS GPA, SAT, and residency status



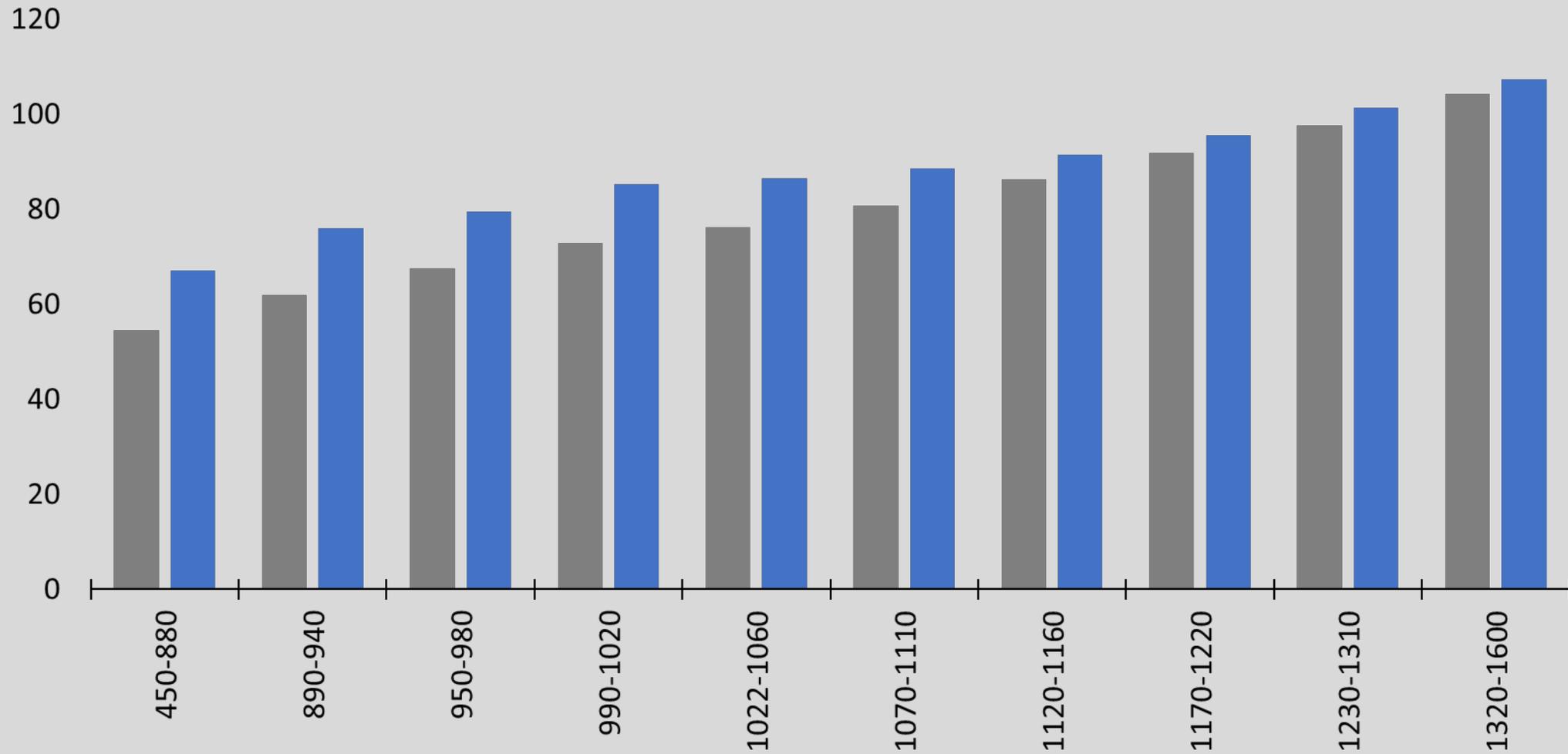
Average Cumulative Hours Earned in 6 years by First Term Course Load



6-year Graduation Rates by Course Load and SAT



Credit Accumulation in 6 years by Course Load and SAT



Comparison of Means by First Term Course Load

Variables	12-14 hrs	15+ hrs
Female	55.8%	52.7%
Black	21.8%	24.7%
Hispanic	5.5%	5.0%
Asian	5.4%	7.3%
White	61.3%	57.3%
Other race	6.0%	5.7%
Received Pell in 1st term	38.1%	35.3%
Received HOPE in 1st term	56.6%	57.8%
HS GPA	3.22	3.28
SAT math	536	553
SAT verbal	532	543
ACT composite	23	23
Instate	93.2%	90.8%
N	81,363	62,398



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PSM Estimates

Likelihood of Earning any Degree Within 6 Years

	All Institutions	Research	Comp.	State Universities	State Colleges
Av. Treatment effect of 15+ in 1 st Term	0.061 (0.003)	0.015 (0.004)	0.087 (0.005)	0.095 (0.006)	0.063 (0.009)
Av. Treatment effect of 30+ in 1 st year	0.130 (0.003)	0.054 (0.004)	0.184 (0.006)	0.175 (0.006)	0.141 (0.009)

Note: all coefficients are significant at $p < 0.001$



PSM Estimates

Cumulative Hours Earned Within 6 Years

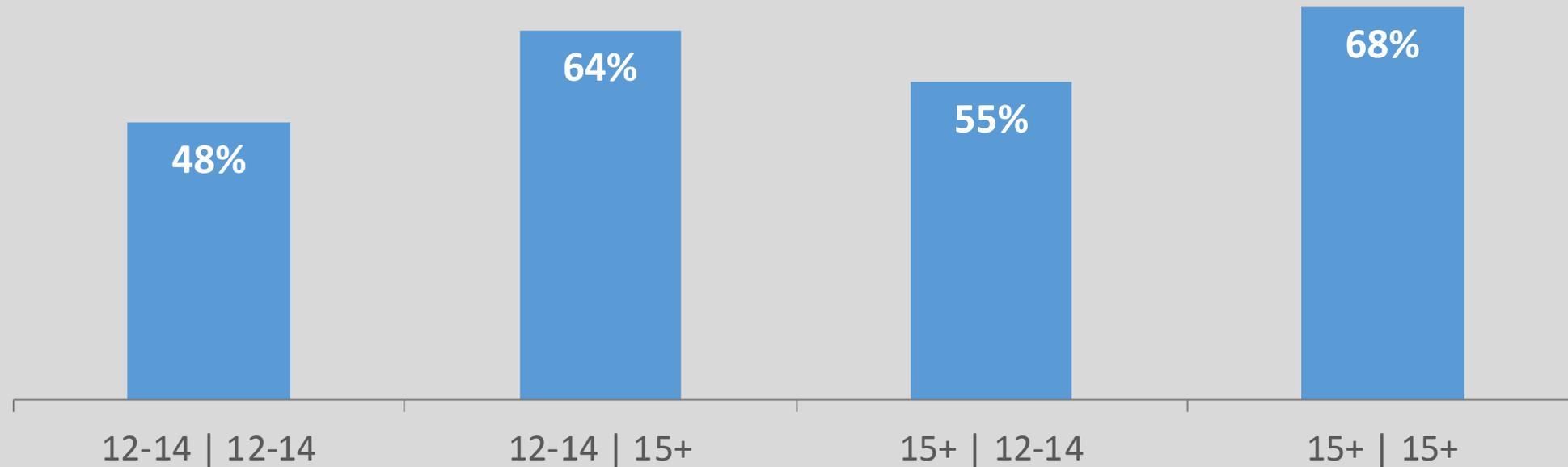
	All Institutions	Research	Comp.	State Universities	State Colleges
Av. Treatment effect of 15+ in 1 st Term	7.1 (0.260)	4.5 (0.380)	8.7 (0.519)	9.8 (0.588)	3.7 (0.629)
Av. Treatment effect of 30+ in 1 st year	16.0 (0.256)	10.5 (0.371)	20.0 (0.517)	21.0 (0.581)	11.8 (0.613)

Note: all coefficients are significant at $p < 0.001$



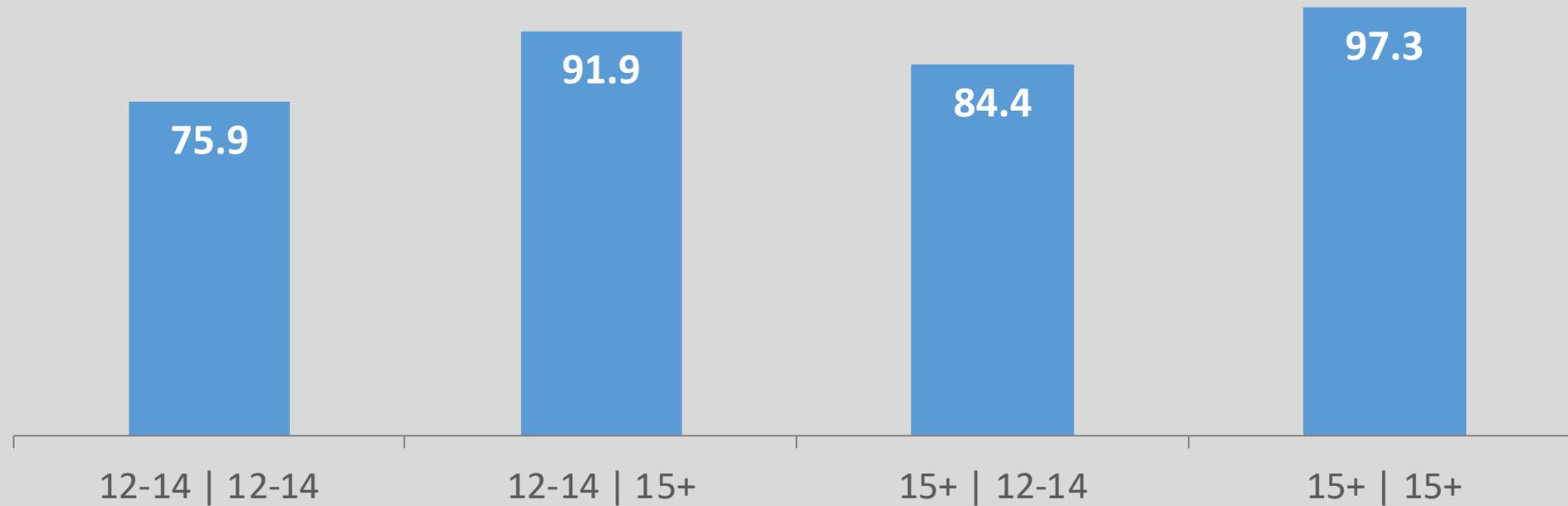
Course Load Combinations

Percent Graduated in 6 Years by First and Second Term Course Load



Course Load Combinations

Average Hours Earned in 6 Years by First and Second Term Course Load



Conclusion

- Students are 6-13 pp more likely to graduate and earn on average 7-16 more credit hours in 6 years if they take an initial momentum load rather than a non-momentum course load
- Students who attempt 15+ hours in the first two terms outperform those who only attempt 15+ in the first term
- At GGC, the percent of first-time freshmen attempting at least 15 hours increased by 22 pp from Fall 2018-Fall 2019





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