

Can Engaged Scholarship Experiences Improve Student Learning?

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PennState

College of Agricultural Sciences

- What is Engaged Scholarship – how do we define it?
- What is Penn State doing to encourage Engaged Scholarship?
- Are students in the Environmental Resource Management major & College of Agricultural Sciences participating in ES experiences?
- How do we determine the benefits of ES?



What is Engaged Scholarship?

- Experiential Learning
- Learning Through Reflection
- High Impact Educational Practices
- Service Learning
- Engaged Learning

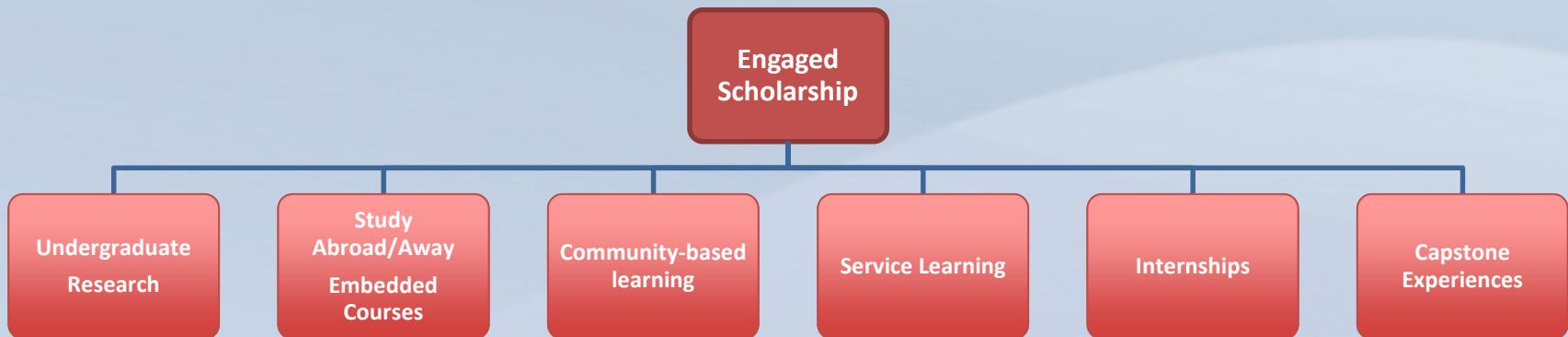


Engaged Scholarship

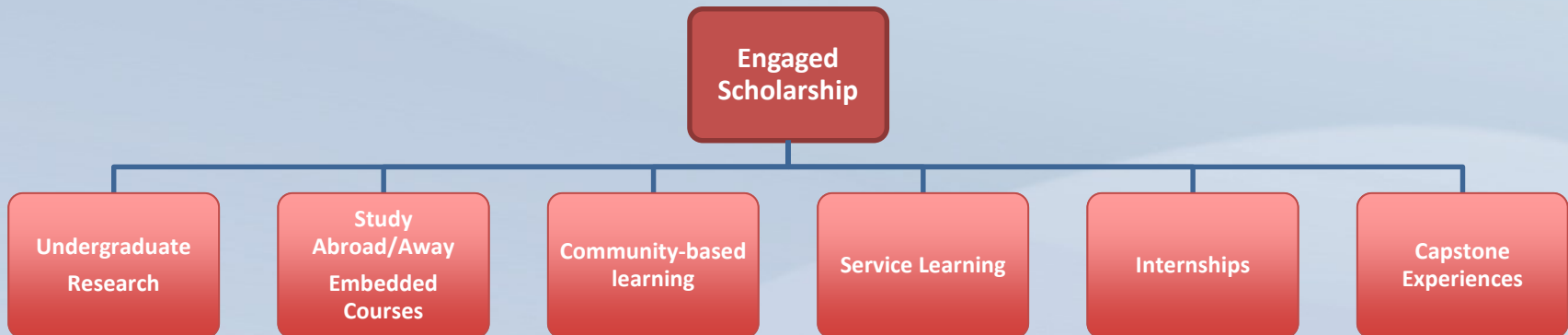
Why do we care?

Outcomes of an engaged curriculum:

1. Better Problem Solving Skills
2. Increased Global Literacy
3. Career Enhancement
4. Transformative Experiences
5. Stronger Critical Thinking Ability



*“Because of Penn State’s commitment to engaged scholarship, members of the University community are working toward creating more opportunities for students to participate in out-of-classroom academic experiences, such as **undergraduate research, study abroad, study away, embedded travel courses, community-based learning, service learning, internships, and capstone experiences.**”**



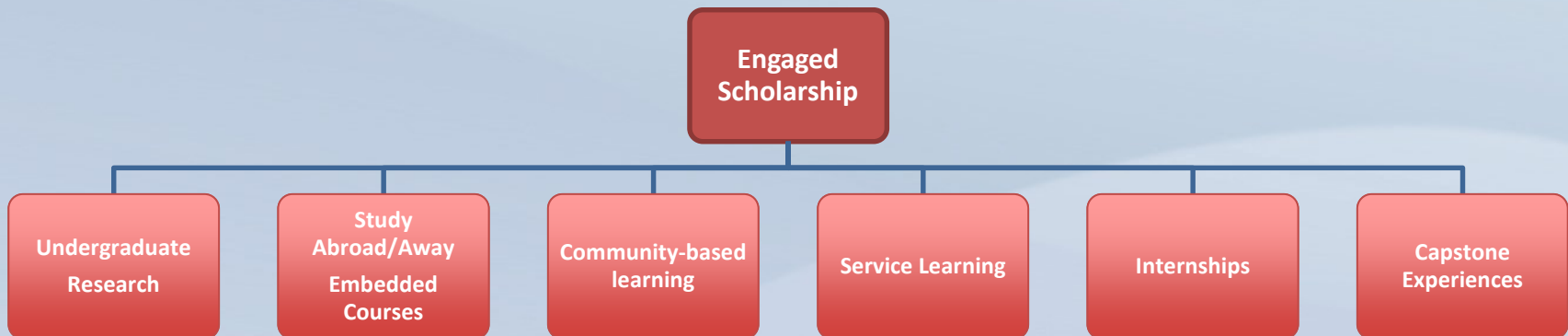
*Penn State’s Council on Engaged Scholarship



“Engaged Scholarship”

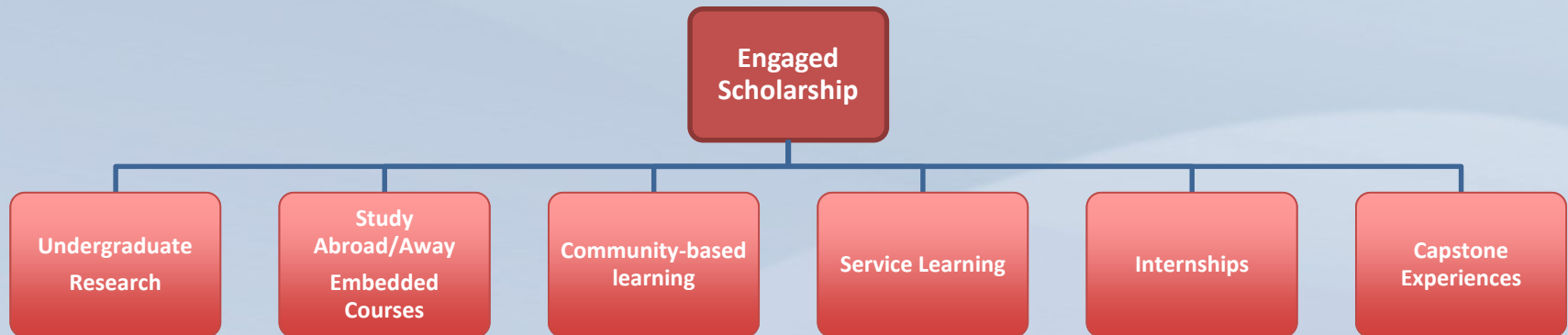
Penn State’s definition:

“Out-of class academic experiences that complement in-class learning”



Penn State's Commitment to Engaged Scholarship:

*“All Penn State undergraduate students would be required to complete an engaged scholarship experience of 0 to 18 credits during their baccalaureate degree program.”**



**Legislation introduced to PSU Faculty Senate, April 2016*



Timeline for implementation:

Spring 2016: Legislation introduced to the Faculty Senate to mandate at least one ES experience for every PSU undergraduate

Fall 2016: Implementation Committee develops guidelines and recommendations for academic units

Spring 2017: Implementation Committee shares guidelines/recommendations with Senate and Associate Deans

Fall 2017: Academic units develop ES Plans

Spring 2018: Plans submitted to Senate Curricular Committee for evaluation

Fall 2018: Graduation requirements in place for 2018-19 program year.



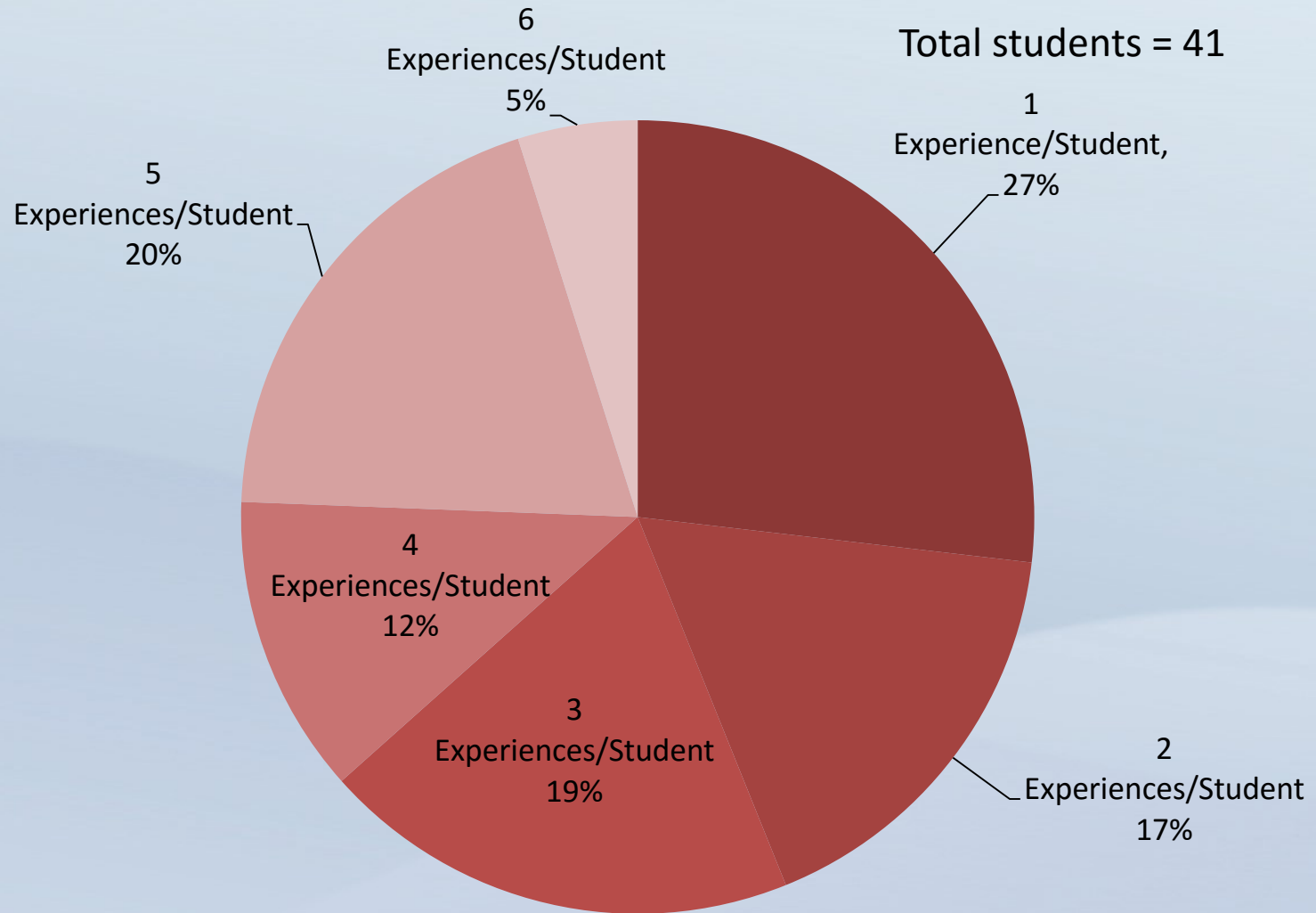
Are students in the Environmental Resource Management major & College of Agricultural Sciences participating in ES experiences?

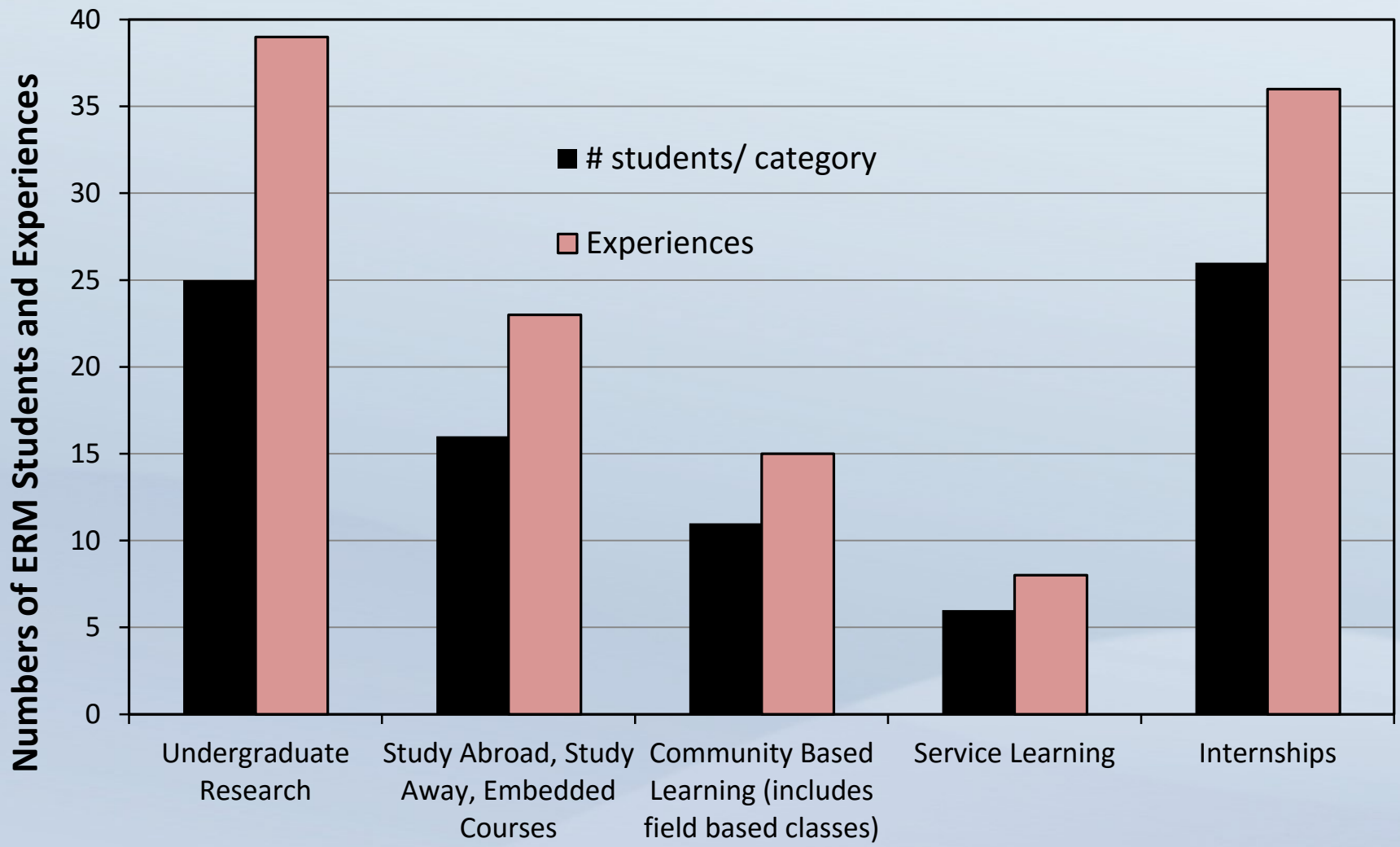
Survey instruments:

1. On-line, College-wide Graduation Survey
>93.1 of students participate (n = 639, 70%)
2. ERM Senior Exit Survey and Interview
100% of students participate (n = 41, 60%)



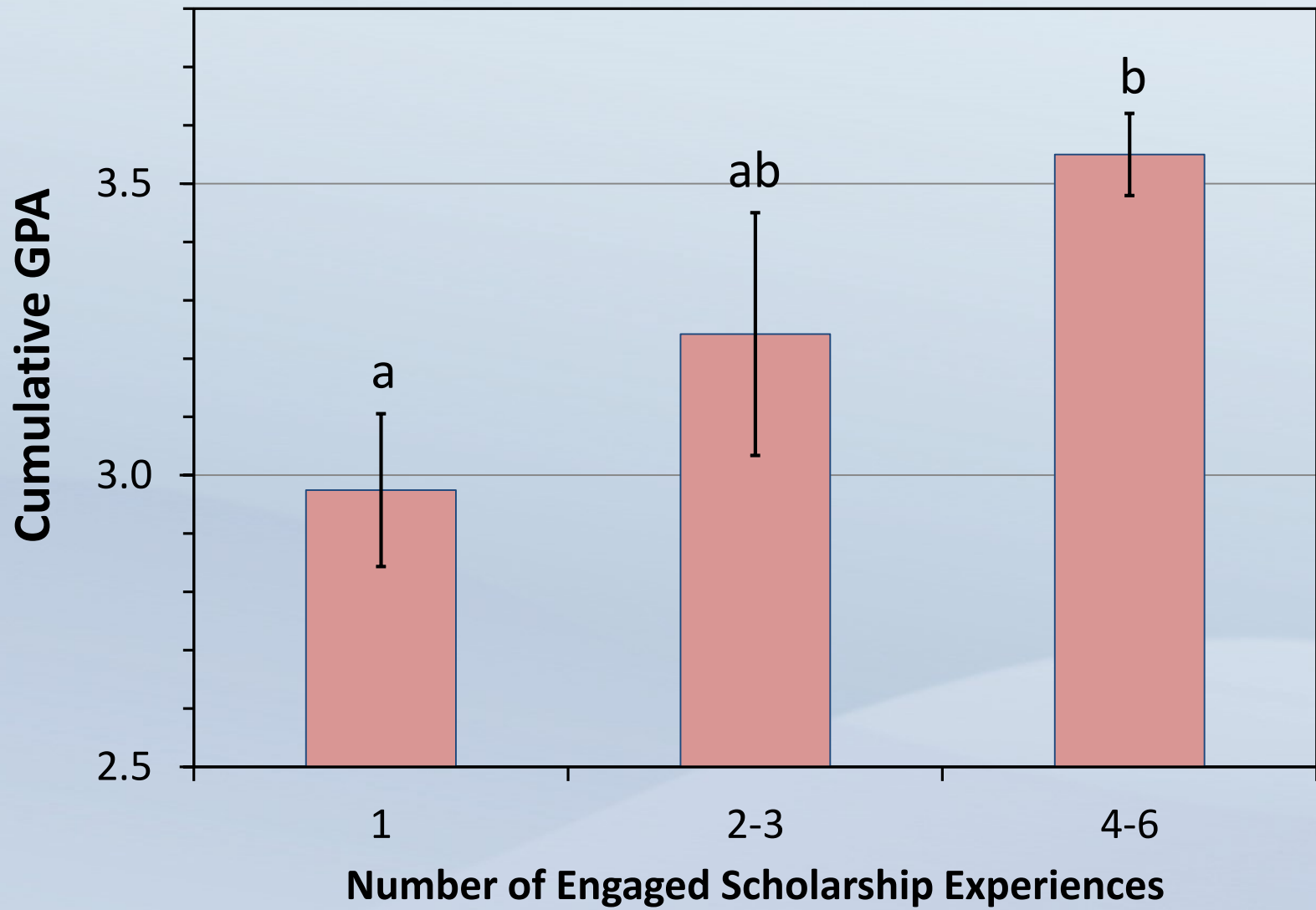
Number of Engaged Scholarship Experiences per ERM Student

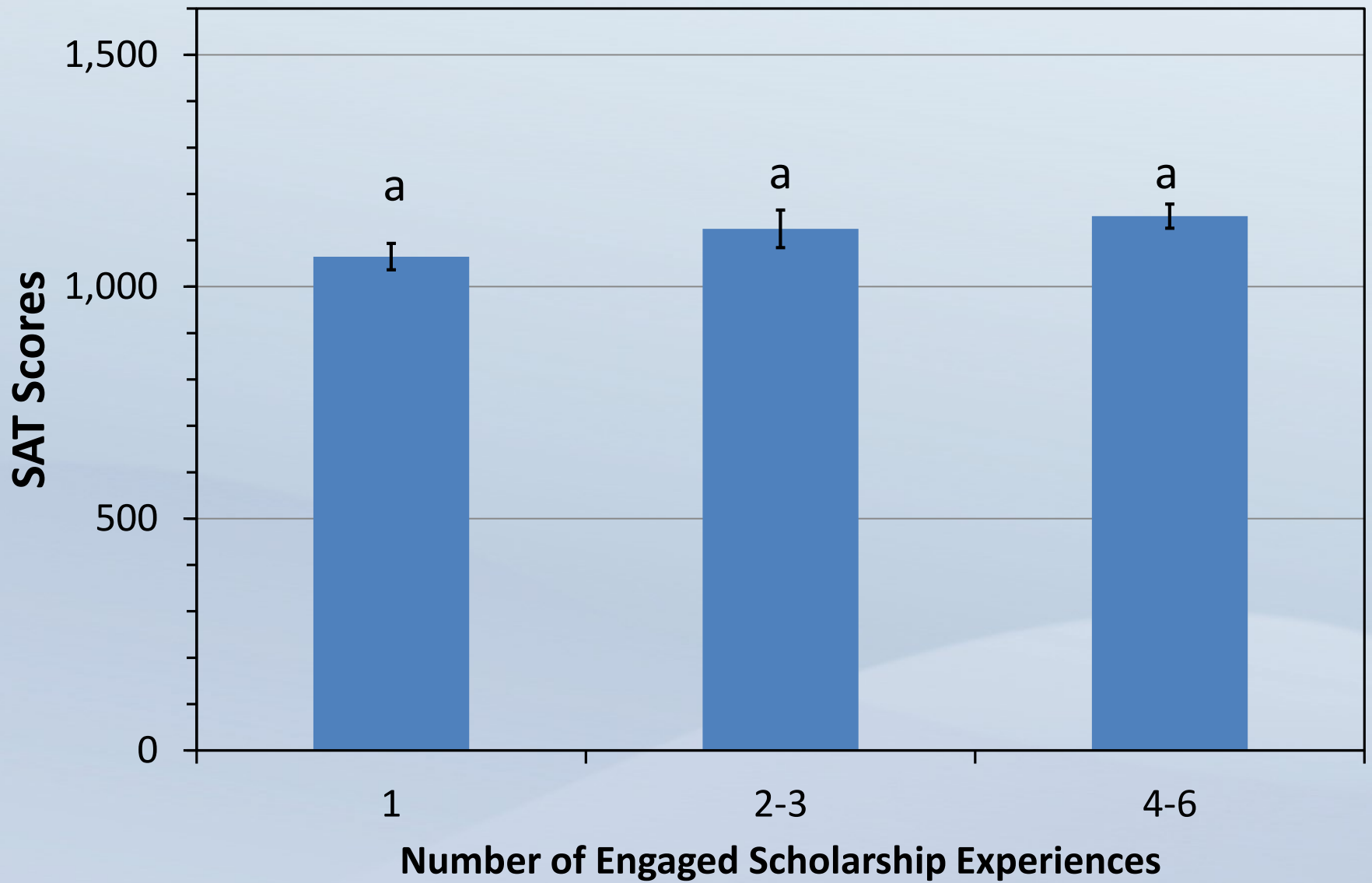




Categories of Engaged Scholarship Experiences

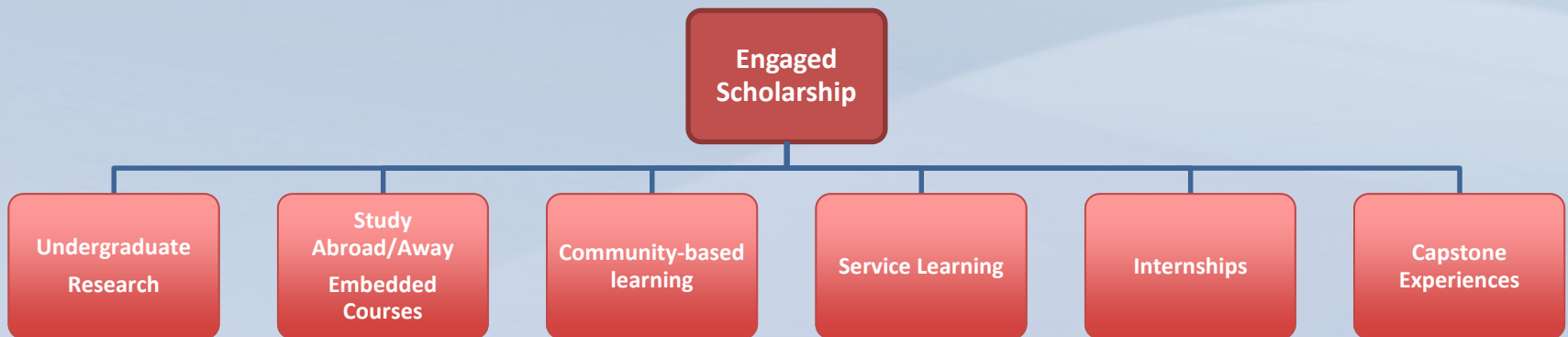






Conclusions:

- *Colleges of Agriculture/Natural Resources are engaging students*
- *Students with a higher number of engaged experiences appear to perform significantly better overall*
- *Better student performance with increasing ES experiences is not related to incoming ability*
- *Students participate in ES at various stages of their academic career*



Questions:

- *How do we ensure that all students are “engaged”?*
- *Cost/resource considerations – What are the costs for administering an ES “requirement” at the program level?*
- *How do we assess the quality of ES experiences?*

