

Undergraduate **BUSINESS MAJORS**

THE LEADERS

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ASSESSMENT

At least five sections of FIN 3290, a required course for all business majors, are offered each semester, enrolling in excess of 300 students. A joint effort to improve this course between the Mike Ilitch School of Business and the Office for Teaching and Learning started during the fall 2015 semester. As a pilot test, pyramid exams were introduced in one section. These two-stage exams require students to answer exam questions independently, turn those answers in and then answer the same questions in cooperative groups. The individual component counts as 70 percent of the exam grade, while the cooperative portion counts for 30 percent. By discussing the questions and answers, pyramid exams allow students to learn from each other, and the exam becomes a learning experience.

IMPACT

In the section using the pyramid exams, students performed better than students in class sections taking traditional exams. Additionally, students from the pilot section indicated in the Student Evaluation of Teaching that some of the pyramid-exam groups continued to study together outside of class throughout the semester, helping them learn better and achieve higher scores. During the winter 2016 semester, three sections used pyramid exams, leading to a 28 percentage point increase in satisfactory performance among students in face-to-face classes.



AIM HIGHER

ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING
