



### Learning Community classes provide:

- Smaller Classes
- Academic Coaches
- Supportive Environment
- More opportunities for Student Engagement and Self-Empowerment

**Learning Community students have  
HIGHER PASSING rates and  
have HIGHER RETENTION rates!**

***So ask your Advisor about Learning Community Classes!***

*"Students involved in Learning Communities become more intellectually mature and responsible for their own learning and develop the capacity to care about the learning of their peers."*

*– National Learning Commons, Washington Center*

To sign up for a Learning Community,  
ask your Advisor or contact  
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**LEARNING COMMUNITIES**  
*Take YOU Higher*

## What is a Learning Community (LC)?

An LC is a small community of students and faculty learning together in an exciting and unique way. An LC links two or more interdisciplinary courses around a common theme, and a group of students takes this set of linked classes together, for a semester.

## What are the goals of a Learning Community (LC)?

The primary goals of a Learning Community are:

- to increase student-student interaction and student-faculty interaction
- to improve students' learning and academic achievement
- to increase students' engagement and retention

## What are the "special features" of a Learning Community (LC courses)?

- The two faculty members of an LC work together to help students progress in ALL the linked classes of a Learning Community.
- Class work and projects of the linked LC courses are connected and coordinated so that students are provided multiple exposures to the content.
- LC Academic Coaches (trained tutors) are provided to help students in and out of the class.
- Field trips and special events are planned and integrated.
- In an ESL/AF Learning Community, the linked English classes are specially designed to help students learn the concepts and the specific vocabulary of the linked College course. Thus, while these LC students improve on their English reading and writing skills, they earn college credits for the linked college course.

## What are the benefits of a Learning Community?

Based on the last five years' LC assessment reports:

- LC students are 10% to 30% more likely to PASS the departmental tests (end of the semester exams) than their peers in traditional classes.
- Because of the supportive environment, LC students are LESS likely to withdraw from a course.
- Because of their positive experience, LC students are 10% to 15% more likely to RETURN to college the subsequent semester.
- Because of increased student engagement in class, LC students build strong friendships and develop group and leadership skills.

## Who can sign up for a Learning Community?

Students from one of the three groups can sign up for a Learning Community: College Ready students, Academic Foundation students, and ESL students.

## How are students graded in Learning Communities?

Although the LC courses are linked and the class assignments/projects are integrated, each of the LC courses has its own objectives and evaluation criteria. As a result, students in a Learning Community will earn a separate grade for each LC course, exactly as it would be for any other non-LC course.

## What do students who have taken LC courses say about the Learning Communities?

### Making Friends:

*"It was so much easier to make friends.  
We were seeing everyone three times a week."*

— Olivia

*"During the field trip, I learned the importance of cooperating with classmates. We looked at the exhibits together and had a conversation about them which helped me to understand the concept and know my classmates better although our native languages are different."*

— Eriko

### Teachers and Students:

*"I like being with the same people in all my classes. I also liked the fact that the teachers communicate with each other and are curious about what happens in other classes."*

— Charles

*"LC gives each of us a small sense of belonging in an unfamiliar place. It helps me be more verbal and confident. Given the opportunity, most of us would want to continue in environments such as these. It seems beneficial to our learning."*

— Shudeshna

*"Attending the Learning Community is a milestone of my academic career. By attending the Learning Community, I have enhanced my writing, improved my reading, earned college credit and exited from ESL all at once. Learning Community integrates different subjects into one which makes learning easier and enjoyable."*

— Marisabel