

Learning Community Proposal

Learning communities offer a powerful educational approach that enhances student comprehension. Research has shown that learning communities, on average, lead to an overall improvement in students' classroom performance, grades and persistence. Simply put, learning communities are created when two or more faculty members block classes together and cooperate to connect and coordinate their curricula with one another.

The blocked courses may be either intra- or interdisciplinary, but the results are usually the same. Students enrolled in learning communities typically receive a more comprehensively integrated and structured curriculum that allows them to synthesize and connect the subject matter more thoroughly, leading to enhanced critical thinking skills, improved retention of material and a deeper understanding of the concepts covered. Learning communities also allow students to build stronger social and intellectual bonds with their classmates, thereby increasing their chances of academic success.

Instructions: Faculty members interested in cooperatively creating a learning community might consider a hybrid UCompass class that would allow students to complete two classes in one time slot (e.g., 11:10-12:30 TTH). Faculty should fill in the following **four** fields below: Title of the Learning Community, Course Number, Course Title, and Instructor's Name. The instructors should attach a set of proposed times if the instructors are trying to propose a coordinated time sequence. The instructors should then sign and forward this form to their respective associate dean(s). The associate dean(s) should then fill in the Section Number and Course Fee fields and sign signifying his/her approval of the creation of the learning community.

Once all of these steps have been completed, copies of this form should then be forwarded to the Registrar's Office and the Counseling Office. Alerting the Registrar will ensure that the learning community is properly established within WebAdvisor for the appropriate semester, guaranteeing that all students enroll in the necessary co-requisite sections. Alerting the counselors will allow them to promote enrollment, offer informed guidance and explain the nature of learning communities to students who display potential interest.

Note: *In order to establish a learning community, this form must reach the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadlines for submission of class schedules for any given term.*

Title: Learning Community	Course Number	Section	Course Title	Instructor	Course Fees

Faculty Signature

Date

Associate Dean Signature

Date

Faculty Signature

Date

Associate Dean Signature

Date