

Learning Communities help students learn ...

- College survival skills
- Time management
- Goal setting
- Reading strategies
- Effective note taking and essay writing skills
- Exam preparation

Learning Communities at Western were developed at a Learning Communities Institute hosted by Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Western's team was chosen through a competitive process to participate in the Institute. Following the Institute, site visitors came to Western to document its progress towards implementation. The first Learning Communities were formed in Fall 2004.



Student Views

"It gave me an opportunity to become involved with my classmates on a personal level. When I needed help on a homework assignment I was not shy about calling anyone in my LC because I knew they would be willing to help me."

Megan McManus, Elementary Education

"I was a member of a Learning Community, and I truly feel that it was the best decision that I have made at this school. I feel that being in a Learning Community instantly gives you a place to feel like a part of a group of people with the same level of expectations on education as yourself."

Julia Darrow, Elementary Education

"It was an incredibly positive experience that made the transition from high school to college easy and exciting."

Josh Lisenbee, English Literature

For more information

**Learning Communities
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Learning Communities

Missouri Western State University





Learning Communities Program

What is a Learning Community?

A Learning Community is a way to develop friendships and make connections with other students who have similar

interests to yours. Learning Communities are comprised of small groups of about 25 freshmen each that take two or three courses together and may even live on the same floor of a residence hall. Professors in the classes coordinate the coursework so that students are constantly making connections between the classes.

The biggest benefit of being in a Learning Community is that it makes adjusting to college life so much easier and quicker. Learning Community students report greater satisfaction than other freshmen with learning their course material. This is a result of closer interaction with faculty, participating in peer study groups, and applying their learning to real world problems.

Some groups have peer mentors, who are students who participated in a Learning Community as freshmen.

They can answer your questions and serve as mentors as you get adjusted to college life.

Students in a Learning Community often get together for social activities such as sporting events, theater performances, or guest speakers; they have dinners with each other and faculty, or they just hang out with each other and have fun, and get involved and meet others.

Learning Communities ...

- Make the campus feel smaller
- Help you adjust to college life
- Have you meet people and make friends right away
- Develop a strong network of students, peer mentors, and faculty
- Connect your learning in multiple classes

Last year, Western offered more than 10 Learning Communities. Each community is built around a theme that ties the classes together. A few examples of Learning Community themes are listed below:

- “The Mind, the Law and Society” – Students interested in criminal justice, social justice issues, ethics in society, the study of American legal systems or psychology take Psychology, Criminal Law and Freshman Seminar courses together.



- “Chances and Choices in America” – students interested in English, sociology or social work take College Writing and Rhetoric, Introduction to Sociology and Freshman Seminar courses.
- “Freedom of Expression” – Students interested in government, communication, public relations, sociology or social work take American National Government and Oral Communication.
- “Science of Wellness” – Students interested in a profession in the health sciences, physical education and health take Principles of Biology, Fitness and Wellness, and Freshman Seminar courses.
- “Search for Self” – Students interested in psychology, English, or communication take Introduction to Psychology, English Composition and Rhetoric, and Freshman Seminar courses.

Check out all the Learning Community choices on our website! Learning Community themes change each fall.

Points of Pride

- **Western’s newest residence hall opened in Fall 2005 and was designed with Learning Communities in mind. Each floor contains study areas, lounges and kitchenettes. Hallways are built so that members of Learning Communities can live near each other.**
- **Western first offered freshmen Learning Communities in Fall 2005. For the Spring 2006 semester, 8.6% more students who were enrolled in Learning Communities that fall returned for their second semester of college as compared to freshmen not enrolled in a Learning Community.**