

What Is A Learning Community?

A learning community is a combination of courses linked together around a common topic or theme with assignments that cut across courses. A learning community is one educational model that serves to enhance teaching and learning.

Instructors and counselors work together to design new ways to teach students in learning communities with ongoing collaboration and cross-instruction throughout the semester. This faculty “team” approach complements the educational experience in a way that connects learning across subjects.



“I loved the learning community. We really bonded. When students saw us together they knew they wanted to be a part of a learning community too.”

- Mike (2010)

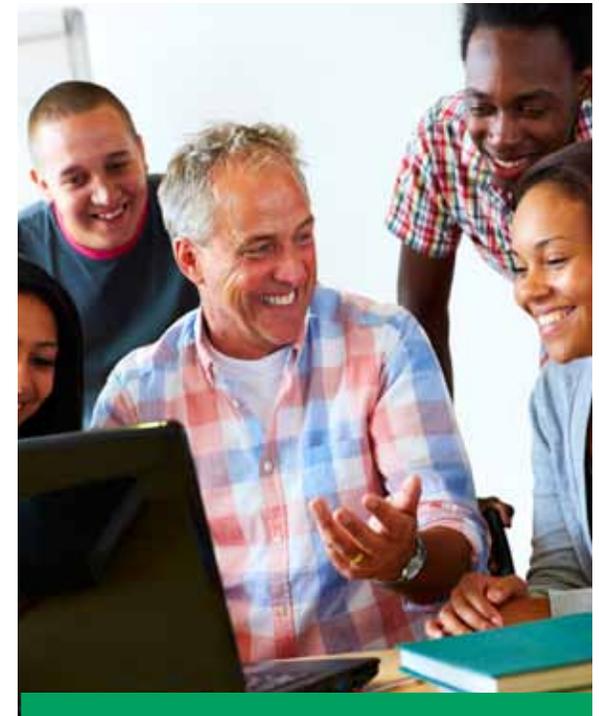


**DELAWARE
TECH** 

An Advisor's Guide to
Learning Communities

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

at Delaware Technical
& Community College



This guide offers an explanation of Learning Communities, how they work, and how students may benefit.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Why does Delaware Tech offer learning communities?

Studies across the nation have shown learning communities improve learning and student success. While that's reason enough, students also say they get to know their classmates and instructors better, and they enjoy the classes more than "stand alone" courses. Research indicates students persist in college if the learning experience is meaningful, deeply engaging and relevant to their lives. By offering learning communities, Delaware Tech is demonstrating its commitment to creating a culture of student success.

Where do students find more information about learning communities?

Student fliers and course schedules provide a description of current learning communities and the times when they're offered. Information on learning communities will soon be available on the web. It's recommended that students discuss available learning communities with their advisor before registering.

What are the benefits of joining a learning community?

- Students are more engaged with the course material because of the interrelated concepts: assignments and activities. In addition, students connect and make friends with their classmates because of the shared experiences.
- Students report better relationships with their instructors as well.
- Classes that might seem unrelated are connected through a common theme. This integrative curriculum model supports high-level student learning.
- Some LCs allow students to turn in one assignment to satisfy the requirements of more than one course, helping the students manage their workload more easily.
- Students have a ready-made study group of classmates to whom they can turn to for discussion, homework help and studying for tests.
- Students feel more involved and connected to the campus which increases the likelihood that they will stay in school and do well academically.

After enrolling in a learning community, are students expected to complete all courses?

Yes, students who wish to withdraw from one learning community course MUST withdraw from all courses in the learning community. Since the curriculum is connected and integrated, they must continue all courses at the same time.

Do students receive separate grades for each course in a learning community?

Yes, they will receive individual grades for the individual courses in the learning community. Student transcripts show separate courses with specific grades.

Why can't a student enroll in just one course and participate in a learning community?

Learning community topics and assignments are connected so courses cannot be taken individually. **Students must register for all courses in a learning community.** They are required to take all learning community courses at the same time.