

**SALEM STATE COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
First Year Experience**

**Call for Proposals
2012-13 Learning Communities**

INTRODUCTION

Learning communities are a cluster of two or three classes offered during a semester built around an interdisciplinary theme to link the specific content of each course. A learning community enrolls a common cohort of students (capped at 20) and is scheduled to permit for extended off-campus activities during the day and to permit faculty collaboration in the classroom.

Learning communities are also intended to offer faculty a chance to re-invigorate themselves and the opportunity to teach their subject matter in collaboration with faculty from other disciplines who share a similar interest.

Priority for scheduling learning communities will be given to full-time faculty and then to long-term adjunct or to college administrators and staff.

Learning communities will typically be offered as three courses already in the catalog. Provision can be made to use an IDS designation for one of the component courses if necessary and with the permission of the chair of IDS.

No course in a learning community can have a pre- or co-requisite or, if it does, the faculty member and department chair must be willing to waive that requisite (unless the co-requisite course is part of the proposed learning community).

A critical component of any learning community should be activities that, whether overtly or discreetly, assist students in internalizing at least some of the behaviors necessary to succeed in college.

Learning communities should involve intensive faculty-student interactions and a significant degree of pedagogic engagement and, usually, significant out-of-class activities. It is also probable that such courses would require significant pre-implementation planning. For this reason, courses are capped at 20.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. 1. Complete the proposal form provided, attaching additional pages as needed.
2. 2. Both the faculty member and the chair of his/her home department must sign the form in order for it to be considered.
3. 3. Submit the signed proposal to:

Office of Academic Affairs
First Year Experience
Learning Community Proposal

1. 4. PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Monday, October 10, 2011
2. 5. E-MAIL NOTIFICATION OF DECISION: By October 24, 2011

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

**Professor J.D. Scrimgeour, First Year Faculty Fellow
Ext. 6494
jscrimgeour@salemstate.edu**

**SALEM STATE COLLEGE
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
First Year Experience
Proposal Form
*Learning Community***

Names: _____

Departments: _____

Check One: Fall 2012 ___

Spring 2013 ___

1. Proposed name of the learning community:

2. Which courses will constitute this learning community?

3. Please provide a course description that would serve in *addition* to the individual course descriptions of the constituent parts of the proposed learning community:

4. Please identify the assessable learning outcomes of this proposed learning community that are additional to the learning outcomes of the proposed constituent courses:

5. What is distinctive about the teaching and learning experience this learning community offers?

6. In 40 words or less, please offer a description that can appear in college publications and which will help attract students to your proposed learning community.

Faculty signatures: _____

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____

Home department chair signatures: _____

Date _____

Date _____

Date _____