Call for Proposals: First-Year Learning Communities (LCs)

FALL 2017 - Proposals for Learning Communities for First-Year Students are being accepted October 10-November 11, 2016.

Faculty and teaching staff on both campuses are invited to submit proposals using the following link: www.kennesaw.edu/learningcommunity. Please note that proposals submitted by fully-formed instructional teams are more likely to be selected. An instructional team consists of instructors who have agreed to collaborate with the other LC instructors to create high-impact learning experiences for their LC students, such as integrative assignments that cross course boundaries.

Learning Communities Program Mission
The mission of the Learning Communities Program at Kennesaw State University is to promote the academic success and retention of students through programmatic structures and pedagogies that enhance student learning, personal development, and overall satisfaction with the university experience.

Learning Communities Model
Two or more general education or lower level major courses are linked together by a common theme or academic major/interest. The most successful LCs include a First-Year Seminar, such as KSU 1101. The same 25 students (or fewer) co-enroll in all courses within a learning community. LC faculty collaborate to help students make intellectual connections across disciplines.

First-Year Curriculum Requirement
Enrolling in a Learning Community is one way new students can meet KSU’s First-Year Curriculum Requirement. According to the KSU Undergraduate Catalog, “All first-year, full-time students entering Kennesaw State University with fewer than 15 semester hours are required to complete a first-year seminar or an academic learning community. This requirement must be satisfied during a student’s first term of enrollment at Kennesaw State University.”

LC Student Learning Outcomes
In addition to outcomes associated with the individual courses that comprise a Learning Community, Learning Communities students meet learning outcomes in the categories of Integrative Learning and Campus and Community Engagement.

Faculty Training/Development
Faculty and staff teaching in learning communities must complete an online training module. In addition, the LC Program provides opportunities and space for group and individual team collaborations. Ongoing faculty development is provided by the LC Program in the form of workshops and consultations.

Assessment
Assessment is conducted at the program level. LC faculty assist by encouraging students to participate in surveys (one or two) and by providing samples of student work related to learning outcomes. Student learning is also assessed at the annual Academic Extravaganza: Learning Communities Showcase and Celebration, which honors the creative and academic work of LC students and faculty.

Contact Us!
If you have questions or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact us! We are available to meet with individuals or groups.

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Guidelines for creating a Learning Community proposal:

- By definition, Learning Communities must contain at least two courses.
- At least one course in each Learning Community must be limited to LC students. The maximum number of students in a LC is 25.
- One instructor should not teach all courses within a Learning Community.
- It is possible to embed Learning Community students in large courses.
- Learning Communities may be offered at any KSU campus. Courses within individual Learning Communities must meet on the same campus.
- Proposals should include General Education courses and/or lower-level major courses that do not have prerequisites.
- The most successful Learning Communities include a First-Year Seminar (FYS)*. If your proposal does not include a FYS, please identify the course that will include only the LC students (<25 students) and will serve as the “anchor” course for the Learning Community.
- Proposals submitted by fully-formed instructional teams are most likely to be selected. If necessary, the Learning Communities Program will try to help you identify instructors to teach in your Learning Community.
- If you are proposing a Learning Community for a specific major, please consult with the chair and/or an academic advisor for that major to ensure that the courses included in the Learning Community meet the needs and graduation requirements of the students you are targeting.
- Please seek Chair approval before submitting your proposal.
- If you are interested in teaching in a Learning Community but do not plan to submit a proposal this year, please contact the Learning Community Program to express your interest. We will help you find a Learning Community that matches your interests and goals.

* To read more about KSU’s award-winning, 3-credit-hour First-Year Seminars, please see [http://uc.kennesaw.edu/fys](http://uc.kennesaw.edu/fys)