

Proposal for Learning Community Program

Learning Communities are a collaborative effort among a sponsoring department/program/college and the Learning Community Program with the goal of supporting a students' academic success and assisting students in their academic and social transition to Minnesota State University, Mankato.

- A First-Year Learning Community is a great way for students to explore an academic interest, while also making friends and finding an academic home at MSU.
- A Second-Year Learning Community is a great way for students to find connection to a specific department/program/college.

Those interested in proposing a Learning Community (LC) for the 2018-2019 academic year should submit their completed application, which includes a Dean's signature by October 20, 2017. We encourage you to propose your learning community for a two-year period.

If you have any questions while filling out this application, please contact Jean Clarke, Learning Community Program Coordinator at (507) 389-1450 or jean.clarke@mnsu.edu.

Goals for students in a Learning Community:

- *Participate in shared coursework*
- *Participate in relevant co-curricular opportunities through the Make A Difference Project*
- *Achieve Higher Academic Success*
 - < *Proven higher GPA and college completion in 8 semesters*
- *Ability to form effective study groups*
- *Ability to collaborate with other students*
- *Interact in a positive way with diverse populations*
- *Interact with faculty effectively during classroom/office hours and during informal activities*
- *Ability to use campus resources appropriately*
- *Ability to apply college-level study strategies to their academic coursework*
- *Establish social connections with other students through participation in social activities*
- *Understand the importance of advising*
- *Obtain personalized academic and transitional support from faculty and peer mentors*

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Academic Focus of the Community:

Populations of Students Who May Be Interested in the Community
(*Example: major, academic interest area, etc.*)

Sponsoring Department(s)/Program(s):

How does your department/college plan to be a part of the recruitment of students into this Learning Community?

Suggested name for the community:

What specific learning outcomes do you expect students to achieve by participating in this learning community? (social, academic, career development, leadership, civic engagement, and community service experiences students will have as a part of this community). General goals are listed above.

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How will faculty and staff be engaged in the learning community? Examples could include participating in study sessions prior to tests, assisting in planning of the "Make a Difference" service project, engaging students in out-of-class activities such as field trips, etc. (Please include specific ideas or plans if applicable).

Are there any requirements for students prior to acceptance into the Learning Community? (Math/Chemistry/etc. placement, GPA, prerequisites, etc.)

Yes

No

a. If yes, please list:

Comment on your intentions for including the Common Read as a part of your learning community:

Are there any specific events, etc. that you would like to see your Learning Community Coordinator have the Learning Community take part in?

Learning Communities may be approved for two years, please indicate which years you would like approval for:

2018-2019

2019-2020

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FALL SEMESTER COURSE SELECTION

Select courses for fall semester that will be offered as part of the learning community curriculum. Here are a few things to consider:

- Please consider adding First Year Seminar as part of First Year Learning Communities: First Year Seminar (FYEX 100): This is highly recommended as a course in your first-year learning community, as it is a way to bring the students together, address issues unique to their group, and assist in their transition to Minnesota State University, Mankato. Please recommend your instructor for the FYEX 100 Seminar course (instructor needs to meet HLC qualifications) and include the name in your proposal. Final approval of the instructor will be made by the Office of New Student and Family Programs. If you have questions about FYEX, please contact them at 507 389-5498 for more information about the FYE course, or visit www.mnsu.edu/newstudent/seminar
- It would be ideal to have 15 credits (please refer to your academic map to help with this selection of 15 credits including major courses and general education courses) so students know their entire schedule.
- Students participating in learning communities take all of the courses offered in the fall semester (as long as they have not already received credit for the course). We do require that students are enrolled in at least 50% of the courses to be part of the Learning Community.
- Faculty selection: Where possible, please be intentional about selecting the faculty who will be teaching as a part of the learning community. Learning communities provide the best experience for students when faculty and staff involved with the program are engaged in the design and implementation of the learning community.
- Departmental approval: Communicate with the academic department chair and faculty for each course. Signatures are not required; however, you must communicate with the department and faculty for each course and obtain verbal or email permission to use their course.

Course 1 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

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Course 2 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

Course 3 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

Course 4 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

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Course 5 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

SPRING SEMESTER COURSE SELECTION

Select courses for spring semester that will be offered as part of the learning community curriculum. Here are a few things to consider:

- It would be ideal to have 15 credits (please refer to your academic map to help with this selection of 15 credits including major courses and general education courses) so students know their entire schedule.
- Students participating in learning communities for the spring semester work with their advisor to make the best academic decision about the courses, so they are able to take any or all of the courses offered.
- Faculty selection: Where possible, please be intentional about selecting the faculty who will be teaching as a part of the learning community. Learning communities provide the best experience for students when faculty and staff involved with the program are engaged in the design and implementation of the learning community.
- Departmental approval: Communicate with the academic department chair and faculty for each course. Signatures are not required; however, you must communicate with the department and faculty for each course and obtain verbal or email permission to use their course.

Course 1 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

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Course 2 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

Course 3 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

Course 4 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

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Course 5 Subject and Course Number:

Title:

Number of credits:

Instructor recommended:

General Education Requirement

Major Requirement

Both

Departmental approval is required, do you have this approval?

Yes

In Progress

RETURN COMPLETED PROPOSAL TO: jean.clarke@mnsu.edu or Learning Communities CR C131

Proposal Submitted By: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature of Proposer: _____

Dean Signature: _____

Date: _____