



Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY



Learning Communities

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What are learning communities?

In higher education, curricular learning communities are classes that are linked or clustered during an academic term, often around an interdisciplinary theme, and enroll a common cohort of students. A variety of approaches are used to build these learning communities, with all intended to restructure the students' time, credit, and learning experiences to build community among students, between students and their teachers, and among faculty members and disciplines.

Why should I get involved in a learning community?

As members of learning communities, students are able to more easily meet and interact with other students, who become a support system for them. Students are able to discuss course material with other learning community members in and out of class, often forming social relationships alongside the academic ones. This integration of course material into students' daily lives and blending of the academic and social realms contributes to a host of positive outcomes, including:

- Increased GPA and academic skills
- Increased sense of belonging and self-esteem
- Increased satisfaction and involvement with the university
- Increased opportunities to write and speak
- Higher retention rates
- Greater ability to meet academic and social needs
- Higher critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities
- A greater openness to ideas different from one's own

What learning communities are offered at SHSU?



What is the [Freshman Learning Community](#)?

The Sam Houston State University Freshman Learning Community (FLC) cohorts are an enhanced non-residential educational experience specifically designed to foster the intellectual development of students through increased interaction with fellow students, faculty and staff. The FLC cohorts offer first-year college students a unique opportunity to become intimately familiar with the necessary academic and social skills that will be a first step toward not only a dynamic undergraduate experience, but one that will prove invaluable in either the work place or post-baccalaureate education.



What is the [Bearkat Learning Community](#)?

Implemented in 2001-02, this is a program which provides incoming freshmen students the opportunity to take classes with other students who live in the same residence hall. This group of students also has a planned program of activities designed to enhance academics as well as provide a positive social atmosphere. BLC was implemented as a joint effort of the Department of Residence Life, the Division of Academic Affairs, and the Division of Student Services.