



## What is a Learning Community?

A variety of approaches that link or cluster classes during a given term, often around an interdisciplinary theme, that enroll a common cohort of students.

*(MacGregor, Smith, Matthews, and Gabelnick, 2001)*

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### Adult Focus

The Adult Focus Learning Community is offered specifically for nontraditional students new to the University. The LC consists of the Student Success Seminar and the Career Planning course. These two classes highlight success strategies, identification of individual learning styles, awareness of academic resources, and the necessary skills to make educational and career decisions.

### African-American Male

The African American Male LC provides incoming first-year students a year-long focus on leadership, civic engagement, and academic and social integration through collaborative and active learning.

### Allied Health

Students pursuing an allied health career should participate in this learning community which integrates the language of medicine, the structure and function of the human body, medical research and controversial health-related topics such as stem cell research.

### Business

No matter what you do with your career, you are in business. The year-long business learning community will give you an introduction to the far ranging world of business and allow you to explore the academic opportunities that exist within the College of Business Administration. Students will experience a variety of classroom activities, including guest speakers from various businesses who will share their views and expertise.

### Communication

This year-long learning community for communication majors focuses on the field of contemporary American mass communication, speaker-audience communication principles, and group dynamics, and examines diversified communication careers.

### Developmental Programs

Learn the skills and behaviors that lead to academic success and personal accountability for individual learning. Students form bonds with fellow LC participants and faculty by means of integrated curricula, a common reading or service activity and a positive, engaging learning environment. These opportunities contribute to academic progress and success.

### Engineering/Pre-Calc

The year-long Engineering/Pre-Calculus LC provides freshmen engineering students a supportive environment to aid in success as they begin their majors. The program emphasizes a strong theoretical foundation through practical applications in mathematics and science. The LC is led by Engineering faculty and academic advisers. Students participate in facilitated study groups, tutoring, academic support services, local company tours, and social events.

### Women in Engineering

The Women in Engineering Program and the Women in Engineering Living-Learning Community prepare engineering majors to graduate and enter the workforce as qualified professionals. The Women in Engineering LC has both a residence hall and academic component. Courses and activities include the Women in Engineering Seminar and Peer Group Discussion, presentations by engineers from local companies, the Engineering Career Fair, peer mentoring, study groups, and more.

### Green Action Through Education: Recovery of the Burning River (GATE)

What's in our local water and who cares? This environmental Learning Community's aim is to convey the nature, excitement, and role of scientific inquiry through investigation of real-world problems. Students explore science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and global health (STEMM) disciplines through a local civic issue. Experiential learning, civic engagement, scientific inquiry and applied data analyses, and project-based/integrated curricula prepare students for STEMM careers. This team-taught, interdisciplinary LC provides students with an immediate relationship and mentoring by faculty from multiple fields including Engineering, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Nursing, English, Communications, and Education. Assignments emphasize critical thinking and scientific writing skills, and include group projects, interpretation of data, analyses of journal articles, and mathematical and statistical modeling exercises.

### Ritchie and Honors Emerging Leaders

Be part of an exciting Learning Community that has won regional and national recognition! The Emerging Leaders LC fosters leadership experience and academic success within a residential community. Members of the Emerging Leaders Community live in Ritchie Hall or the Honors Complex. Students participate in leadership training, become active members of the Major Events Committee of the Residence Hall Program Board, and enroll in the Student Success Seminar.

### International

The International Learning Community introduces students from cultures outside the U.S. to various services and opportunities available to them at The University of Akron. The LC is comprised of both International and U.S. students, providing interactive, meaningful discussions. The LC is led by instructors possessing cross-cultural experiences and awareness of unique adjustment issues related to studying in a foreign land.

### INTERACT

Interact is a first-year Learning Community available to all incoming students seeking to strengthen their academic foundations and connections to campus. The LC promotes academic and social integration of students of color into The University of Akron through collaborative and active learning. Students pursuing either a Bachelor's or an Associate's degree on a full-time basis are welcome to participate.

### Liberal Arts

What is liberal arts? Be part of this Learning Community designed to acquire general knowledge and refine intellectual skills. Identify key skills, interests, abilities, and career options through English, Psychology, and the Liberal Arts Career courses. Explore varied career options based on these insights.

### Nursing

The College of Nursing's year-long Living/Learning Communities provide freshmen the opportunity to network with other freshmen interested in nursing careers while developing the academic skills necessary to succeed in the challenging Nursing Program curricula. Students meet nursing faculty, receive advice from current nursing students, and experience many opportunities to become familiar with the College of Nursing and nursing career expectations.

## PASSAGE\*

PASSAGE is a structured Learning Community promoting the academic and social integration of students of color into The University of Akron. Through PASSAGE, UA helps students develop a strong affiliation with the University's academic culture by promoting student learning and retention through collaborative and cooperative learning and the use of learning technology.

\* Preparing Akron Students for Success And Great Expectations

## Pre-Education

These Learning Communities provide an introduction to the field of education, aiding in a student's decision to become a future educator. Students gain hands-on experience through a service-learning project involving tutoring local elementary school children. This tutoring experience provides the foundation for writing assignments and critical reflection in English Composition, speeches in Introduction to Public Speaking, and a final project portfolio in the Student Success Seminar.

## Sports Science and Wellness

The Sports Science & Wellness Learning Community is designed for students majoring in Athletic Training and Exercise Science. Coursework centers on introductory core courses. This focus allows students to engage in skill acquisition, mentoring, and laboratory activities which introduce and reinforce anatomical knowledge, critical laboratory skills, and leadership principles in the associated allied health careers.

## Statistics\*

Want to take a chance? Through the Statistics for Everyday Life course and Student Success Seminar, students receive the fundamental ideas of statistics and probability through real-world problems that affect students' everyday lives. The LC is organized around case-studies drawn from current events collected from daily newspapers and other news media, and real-world applications.

\* The Statistics for Everyday Life course is applicable to Nursing, Secondary Education, History, Liberal Arts, Sociology, and Psychology majors contingent upon appropriate Math Placement scores.

## First-Year Exploratory

Do you need resources and information to determine your college major? The Exploratory Learning Communities give undecided/exploratory students the opportunity to adjust to college life in a supportive environment. Through the Student Success Seminar and the Career Planning Course, students receive a comprehensive introduction to UA, guidelines, tools and techniques for making a successful transition to college academics and to the world of work while exploring majors and careers. Students develop a capstone project whose many elements support future careers.

## Living-Learning Communities:

\*\*\*Business Leadership Connection  
11<sup>th</sup> floor Bulger Hall  
(see academic LC)

\*\*\*Future Education Professionals  
4<sup>th</sup> floor Bulger Hall  
(see academic LC)

\*\*\*Nursing-Living, Learning & Leading  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> floors Spanton Hall  
(see academic LC)

\*\*\*Honors Emerging Leaders  
5<sup>th</sup> floor Honors Complex  
(see academic LC)

\*\*\*Ritchie Emerging Leaders  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Ritchie Hall  
(see academic LC)

\*\*\*Women in Engineering  
5<sup>th</sup> floor Spanton Hall  
(see academic LC)

Dance & Theatre: The Artists' Community  
7<sup>th</sup> floor Bulger Hall  
(no academic LC)

ROTC  
Bulger Hall-Floor TBD  
(no academic LC)