

“Learning Communities” (LC) is a term used widely in higher education with great variation in LC structure. Research shows that participation in any LC model increases student success. Specifically, students at Nebraska who participate in a Learning Community:

- Have a higher first-semester GPA
- Take more credits and drop fewer credits
- Are more likely to graduate on time

To achieve these outcomes, LCs at Nebraska have a strong commitment to supporting students’ academic and social transition college. Students in LCs at Nebraska:

- Live together on the same residence hall floor
- Learn together through co-enrolled courses
- Connect with faculty, staff, upperclass mentors, and peers

Each LC is sponsored by a faculty or staff member with expertise in the academic focus of the community. LCs range from Biology to Business to Music and interdisciplinary programs such as Water for Food or Global Experiences. The expertise provided by sponsors allows students to gain a better understanding of specific academic content and to build on students’ classroom learning through engaging experiences related to the focus of the community. Below are two examples of the impact different experiences have had on students in LCs.

“One of my favorite memories as an LC member was visiting the Capitol Building and meeting with State Senator Adam Morfeld and Chief Justice Michael Heavican. Sitting in the Nebraska Supreme Court seats was like a nerdy dream come true, and it was really cool to see that other students were as excited about that as I was.”

-Pre-Law LC Student

“My favorite memory from being in a Learning Community was when we were helping at the People’s City Mission. A bunch of us were sorting clothes, and I went to go hang some on the racks for people to look through. I was just about to hang up a yellow dress when I hear a little girl exclaim to her mom, “El vestido amarillo!” I turn around and she is pointing and asking for the dress. When I handed her the dress, her face was priceless. I have never seen someone so excited for something as simple as a yellow dress. I’m glad I was there to witness that moment.”

-Education LC Student

If you are interested in learning more about Learning Communities at Nebraska please visit [learncom.unl.edu](http://learncom.unl.edu) or contact Jordan Black at (402) 472-0698 or [jblack2@unl.edu](mailto:jblack2@unl.edu).