



UMBC

f AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

Living-Learning Communities

Current and Future Partner Guide
2016-2017

Residential Life
Undergraduate Education

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Purpose and Mission Statements

This publication is intended for current living-learning community (LLC) partners and future partners at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Current partners are encouraged to use this publication to reference the history, successes, residential curriculums, community visions, and resources needed to continue providing seamless learning experiences for residents at UMBC. It also offers direction and guidance on a number of responsibilities associated with supporting and coordinating a LLC.

Residential Life

Mission

The mission of the Residential Life Office is to provide facilities, services, and programs that support the academic mission of the institution and enhance the quality of life for students that live on campus. Residential Life staff foster the personal, social, academic, and leadership development of resident students and prepare them to be active and responsible citizens within the UMBC community and beyond. We seek to accomplish this mission by:

- providing clean, comfortable, safe, accessible, and functional facilities;
- providing caring, high quality, and prompt delivery of service;
- being purposeful in our involvement, development, and empowerment of all students and staff; and
- promoting education for all students and being purposeful and intentional in departmental decisions, services, programs, and facilities in order to foster a community where the diversity of all members of the community is respected.

Community Living Principles

When you chose to become part of the UMBC community, you chose to take advantage of a great opportunity! By choosing to live on campus, you will benefit by learning things about yourself and others that might not have been discovered elsewhere. With your choice comes a responsibility: to live your life in a way that helps everyone get the most out of their experience. We believe that living successfully on campus requires everyone to understand and act from a set of community living principles that shows respect for that responsibility. You are expected to:

- Seek to understand and honor others
- Engage in the UMBC experience
- Foster a community of learning
- Create just and supportive community

Undergraduate Education

Mission

Our mission is to lead and connect the UMBC community by coordinating university-wide initiatives designed to support students toward successful completion of their academic journey at UMBC and to ensure they are prepared to meet the challenges of the future. OUE is involved in developing and revising curricula, programs, and academic policy and in fostering external relations to deliver a distinctive experience for all undergraduates.

Living-Learning Communities

Mission

Living and learning programs at UMBC connect students with a shared interest in culture, academics, or community service. Residential Life has direct impact on the environments of each living learning community. These environments influence outcomes. Specifically we should be directing our energies to influence: peer interactions, faculty interactions, residence hall resources, residence hall climate, diversity interactions and climate, and co-curricular involvement.

Welcome from Residential Life and Undergraduate Education

When UMBC was founded, it was thought that the university could be innovative, interdisciplinary, inclusive – and great. Residential Life and Undergraduate Education pride ourselves on supporting that aspiration through student-focused and academically-driven living-learning communities. We also strive to contribute to that mission with our Residential Life program and relentless focus on undergraduate student success.

During the last 15 years, we have been able to capitalize on a campus-wide spirit of collaboration and our mutual dedication to student success. Each of our living-learning communities come to the table with something special to contribute in crafting a living-learning program that makes the undergraduate experience at UMBC unique.

This Partner's Guide calls those who believe in the power of experiential learning and student engagement to consider the benefits that creation of new LLCs could have in enhancing their academic and student success programs. We encourage you to review the contents of this publication carefully. Whether you currently work with a LLC or are interested in developing a new LLC the information presented herein clearly shows the successes of and possibilities that lie with LLCs.

Dr. Diane Lee
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Undergraduate Education

Dr. John Fox
Director
Residential Life



History and Benefits of Living-Learning Communities

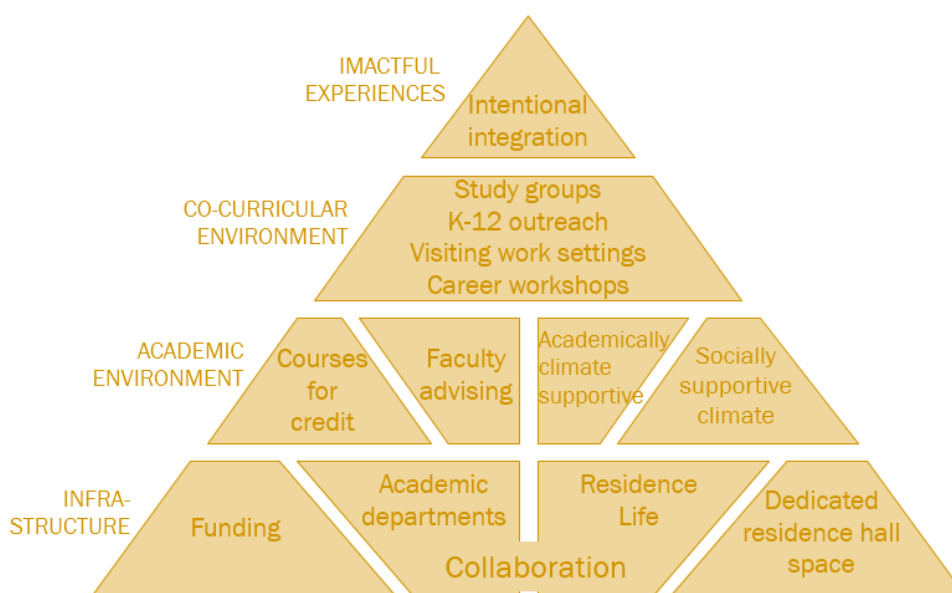
LLCs at University of Maryland, Baltimore County enhance the college experience by promoting academic success and student engagement within a residential community. While each community is unique, all have the same ultimate goal: to foster a successful and engaged UMBC student. LLC programs provide experiences that extend from the classroom to the surrounding community. Residential Life, academic partners and community members are pleased to offer a variety of living-learning opportunities.

History of LLCs

The first community which became known as an LLC was “The Experimental College,” at the University of Wisconsin in the 1920s. This community was designed to explore ideas of democracy and to facilitate faculty-student interactions. LLCs came to the forefront in the 1980s when dramatic reform began in higher education to increase the quality of education. LLCs continue to grow in popularity as institutions address budget, quality of education concerns and the need to create and maintain seamless higher education environments.

Starting in the fall of 2000 LLCs at UMBC have been a collaborative project between Student Affairs (Residential Life) and the Provost’s Office. Beginning August, 2006 the Dean for Undergraduate Education joined the collaborative effort with Student Affairs (Residential Life) to continue the development of the living learning communities at UMBC. In recent years, the LLCs at UMBC have worked to implement a series of impactful experiences, including first-year seminars, peer mentoring programs, and service-learning opportunities into each community. UMBC’s living learning communities have received attention from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Princeton Review*, *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, and *The Lumina Foundation Focus Magazine*.

Best Practice Building Blocks for Successful Living-Learning Communities (Inkelas, 2008)



Benefits of LLCs

Research indicates several measurable benefits of participation in an LLC:

- Greater student engagement and involvement (Kuh, 2008)
- Greater intellectual development (Kuh, 2008)
- Greater understanding of different cultures
- Higher student retention rates (Stassen, 2003)
- Positive integration into the college setting (Inkelas, 2008)
- Greater institutional loyalty (Stassen, 2003)

National Study of Living-Learning Programs, 2004 & 2008

The National Study of Living-Learning Programs assessed and evaluated the role of living-learning programs in facilitating the success of students on a variety of college campuses across the country. The 2007 NSLLP data collection included over 50 postsecondary institutions across the United States, and over 20,000 undergraduate respondents in over 600 living-learning programs. According to the NSLLP students involved in LLCs:

- Have higher intention to participate in service, leadership positions, research, and study board
- Have higher likelihood of smoother academic/social transitions
- Had a higher mean score of intellectual growth than non-participants with Honors themes being the highest
- Report higher critical thinking/analysis abilities compared to students in traditional residence halls
- Report significantly higher sense of belonging, especially at research universities greater satisfaction with living environment
- Showed likeliness to binge drink was significantly lower
- Students in L/L programs tend to be women and from higher SES



Living-Learning Communities and Impact on the Student Experience at UMBC

What impact do LLC Partners have on UMBC students?

- One out of 16 students who live on campus
- One out of 6 new/first-year students who live on campus

LLCs at UMBC could not be successful without the efforts of more than 20 collaborative partners who plan, problem solve, coach, advise, and genuinely care for students. Residential Life is honored to join together with so many brilliantly minded faculty, staff, and community members to impact more than 325 students in Living-Learning Communities across UMBC's campus.

How do students gauge the impact of their LLC programs/experience?

Students who joined an LLC indicated the following with regard to living in their specific residential community:

Table One EBI Questions	All LLCs		All Non-LLCs	
	N= 198		N= 2441	
	M	SD	M	SD
Q021. Living-Learning Outcomes - As a result of my living-learning community, I am better able to: Connect with fellow students within my living-learning community	5.75*	1.60	4.59	1.83
Q088. Personal Interactions - To what extent has living in on-campus housing enhanced your ability to: Meeting other people	5.93*	1.35	5.24	1.69
Q091. Personal Interactions - To what extent has living in on-campus housing enhanced your ability to: Improve interpersonal relationships	5.69*	1.38	5.17	1.68
Q116. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Social transition to college	6.09*	1.21	5.59	1.53
Q117. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Sense of belonging to this institution	6.05*	1.20	5.50	1.58
Q118. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Academic transition to college	5.82*	1.26	5.37	1.55
Q119. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Ability to integrate my academic and social life	5.91*	1.24	5.47	1.53
Q120. Retention and Graduation - My on-campus living experience has positively impacted my decision to (mark N/A if graduating or for studying abroad): Return to this college/university next year	5.91*	1.25	5.41	1.64
Q121. Retention and Graduation - My on-campus living experience has positively impacted my decision to (mark N/A if graduating or for studying abroad): Graduate from this institution	5.78*	1.32	5.45	1.62
Q124. Overall Evaluation - Regarding your on-campus housing experience, to what degree: Has living in on-campus housing enhanced your academic performance	5.53*	1.38	5.02	1.71
Q126. Overall Evaluation - Regarding your on-campus housing experience, to what degree: Did your on-campus housing experience fulfill your expectations	5.76*	1.36	5.20	1.61

*The LLC respondents reported statistically-significant higher means than Non-LLC respondents

This data was compiled through the annual Educational Benchmarking Incorporated (EBI) Resident Satisfaction Survey in November and December of 2013.

Table Two EBI Question	1 st Year Students in LLCs		1 st Year Students in Non-LLCs	
	N= 124		N= 787	
	M	SD	M	SD
Q021. Living-Learning Outcomes - As a result of my living-learning community, I am better able to: Connect with fellow students within my living-learning community	5.81*	1.62	5.31	1.38
Q088. Personal Interactions - To what extent has living in on-campus housing enhanced your ability to: Meeting other people	5.97*	1.31	5.38	1.61
Q091. Personal Interactions - To what extent has living in on-campus housing enhanced your ability to: Improve interpersonal relationships	5.71*	1.32	5.25	1.64
Q116. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Social transition to college	6.17*	1.09	5.62	1.53
Q117. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Sense of belonging to this institution	6.04*	1.11	5.53	1.55
Q118. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Academic transition to college	5.84*	1.14	5.40	1.51
Q119. Integration to College - Overall, my on-campus living experience improved my: Ability to integrate my academic and social life	5.95*	1.14	5.47	1.52
Q120. Retention and Graduation - My on-campus living experience has positively impacted my decision to (mark N/A if graduating or for studying abroad): Return to this college/university next year	5.99*	1.16	5.56	1.59
Q121. Retention and Graduation - My on-campus living experience has positively impacted my decision to (mark N/A if graduating or for studying abroad): Graduate from this institution	5.88*	1.10	5.51	1.59
Q124. Overall Evaluation - Regarding your on-campus housing experience, to what degree: Has living in on-campus housing enhanced your academic performance	5.57*	1.28	5.05	1.71
Q126. Overall Evaluation - Regarding your on-campus housing experience, to what degree: Did your on-campus housing experience fulfill your expectations	5.76*	1.38	5.29	1.57

*The LLC respondents reported statistically-significant higher means than Non-LLC respondents

This data was compiled through the annual Educational Benchmarking Incorporated (EBI) Resident Satisfaction Survey in November and December of 2013.



The Residential Curriculum at UMBC

A residential curriculum provides intentional opportunities for student learning and success outside of the classroom and in the residential living environment. The residential curriculum has identified areas of focus to promote student engagement and success that are aligned with the missions of UMBC, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Residential Life Office.

The Residential Curriculum has seven focus areas:

- Academic and Professional Development
- Community Involvement
- Multicultural Exploration
- Life Management and Skills
- Relationships with Others
- Social Interactions
- Wellness

Why These Focus Areas?

These focus areas or learning goals were developed through a collaborative process of listening to students, student and professional staff, academic and student affairs partners and the review of current research in student development theory. Students can grow in these seven learning goals at any time during their on campus experience, but we believe that there is a natural progression through the learning goals. Through the seven goals, a student will learn:

- how to explain personal identities and values
- how to form meaningful relationships with others
- how to value life-long learning
- how to positively impact the world



Staffing and Collaborative Support for LLCs

Everyone has a role to play within LLCs at UMBC. It is truly a collaborative effort, and Residential Life is proud of the partnerships we have created through each LLC program. LLCs are a result of partnerships with the academic side of campus, with some of our strongest partnerships including innovative faculty and academic advisors.

LLC Faculty

The LLC Faculty Member(s) should be seen as the face of the LLC. They should have a presence on the LLC floor and work to develop solid relationships with the student in the program. Their responsibilities include: teaching a course that the majority of the students in the LLC would enroll in, interacting with students for 1 hour each week (1:1s, having lunch with students, hosting study groups, course-related discussions, or programs). *This person should expect to commit approximately 5 hours per week to the LLC.*

LLC Coordinators

The LLC Coordinator is the administrator of the LLC and can be a faculty or staff member at UMBC. Their responsibilities include: marketing and promotion of program, maintenance of the LLC web site, recruiting new and returning students to the LLC, selecting the students for the program, developing the curriculum and working with the faculty member to execute the programmatic aspects of the floor. Either the coordinator or the faculty member should be at each LLC program. *This person should expect to commit approximately 7 hours per week to the LLC.*

**The LLC Coordinator could also be the LLC Faculty member, but keeping in mind that would require approximately 12 hours of work each week.*

Student Success Coordinator

The Student Success Coordinator is a professional masters-level staff member in Residential Life. The Student Success Coordinator assists in leading a series of general LLC processes, including: LLC Faculty/Coordinator Meetings, training on LLC development, general marketing, and assessment efforts related to LLCs. The Student Success Coordinator coordinates the room selection process and timelines for both new and returning students with LLC Coordinators. The Student Success Coordinator also advises the LLC Council and plans several all-LLC programs.

Program Management Specialist

The Program Management Specialist is a professional staff member in Residential Life. The Program Management Specialist works to fill all vacancies on the floor (keeping in mind the theme of the floor). The Program Management Specialist ensures all LLC students have completed all steps of the housing selection process.

Living-Learning Community Council

The LLC Council is comprised of 1-2 representatives from each LLC at UMBC. This group implements additional programming opportunities for all LLC students. They also serve as the voice of LLC students on campus and support LLC marketing and promotion initiatives.

Community Directors

Community Directors are professional masters-level (live-in) staff members in Residence Life who serve as experts for their communities. They directly supervise Assistant Community Directors (ACDs) and Resident Assistants (RAs) and work with the LLC Faculty and Coordinator regarding specific needs for each community. They assist with programming, maintenance, and community development of the LLC.

Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants (RAs) are student paraprofessional staff members who serve a residential community on campus. LLC RAs are intentionally selected to provide enhanced programming and support for students according to the goals of the community. RAs implement social programs, build a sense of community, connect students to resources, and develop individual connections with their residents. They can be in communication with the LLC Faculty and Coordinator regarding programming or specific student support.

Living-Learning Communities at UMBC

Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Living-Learning Community

The CWIT LLC provides opportunities for women and men majoring in an IT or engineering discipline to bond with other students in the same field and create list support networks. First year students also take an FYE 101 course to learn skills like time management, studying and others to ensure a successful first year in college. The LLC promotes academic excellence, peer mentoring, career exploration, leadership opportunities and social support for students in IT and engineering, with a special emphasis on the needs of women who may feel isolated due to their low enrollment in such programs nationwide.

The goals of the CWIT LLC are as follows:

- To maintain a collaborative learning environment with strong study groups for each STEM course;
- Provide structured academic support;
- Cultivate an engaged community of scholars through social, academic, and campus activities;
- Increase awareness of issues facing women and underrepresented populations in ITE;
- Instill a value of service-learning and giving back to the community.

Program and Contact Information:

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Center for Women in Technology
410-455-8076
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Website: www.cwit.umbc.edu/living



Discovery Scholars Living-Learning Community

The Discovery Scholars LLC will provide new students with a variety of intellectual and social opportunities to help them discover their true academic passion and learn about the UMBC community and surrounding area. With a specific focus on exploring and selecting an appropriate college major and future career, students will live and study with and learn from fellow students in the program as well as their advisors and peer mentors. Through this program, students will participate in both a First Year Seminar (FYS) and a First Year Experience (FYE) Seminar course, will be assigned an advisor in the Office of Academic and Pre-Professional Advising, and will be invited to actively participate in a host of social, academic and cultural programs geared towards fostering intellectual and personal growth during their first year at UMBC

The goals of the Discover Scholars LLC are as follows:

- To stay on track with classes, credits & grades;
- To benefit from all the resources Discovery Scholars has to offer;
- To be actively involved in the Discovery Scholars community;
- To develop as involved and engaged leaders in academics, Discovery Scholars and the UMBC community.

Program and Contact Information:

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Honors College Living-Learning Community

The Mission of the Honors College Living-Learning Community in Susquehanna Hall is to offer Honors College students the chance to continue their collaborative learning experiences in a relaxed residential setting. Students are able to pursue a range of academic and social activities with their peers, and to develop strong friendships through common goals, classes, conversation, and fun.

The goals of the Honors College LLC are as follows:

- To establish a sense of community within the LLC and within the Honors College;
- To expose LLC residents to a variety of perspectives and cultural experiences;
- To foster dialogue and an exchange of ideas in a critical, but non-threatening environment;
- To engage students in exploring academic, research, and community service, career, and pre-professional opportunities.

Program and Contact Information:

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Humanities Living-Learning Community

The Humanities Floor is known to offer some of the best conversation on campus, and offers students interested in the humanities the opportunity to share their passion for culture, language, history, philosophy and literature with other students in the community. This LLC provides opportunities to attend lectures, performances and museums in the Baltimore and Washington, DC area, faculty talks and film discussions. Students majoring/minoring in Africana studies, American studies, ancient studies, Asian studies, cultural anthropology, English, gender and women's studies, history, interdisciplinary studies, media and communication studies, modern languages and linguistics, and philosophy often take part in this community, but students from all departments are encouraged to apply. A variety of perspectives is welcome. Accepting residence on the floor indicates your willingness to attend at least four humanities forum events throughout the year, as well as to contributing to the organization of and participation in other floor activities.

The goals of the Humanities LLC are as follows:

- Engage in discussions with UMBC and outside of UMBC faculty members and presenters giving talks at the Humanities Forums;
- Participate in cultural and social opportunities that will expand their knowledge of the world;
- Partake in dialogues that respects different perspectives and viewpoints.

Program and Contact Information:

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 Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication
 410-455-2997
aoskoz@umbc.edu

Website: www.umbc.edu/reslife/communities/lhc.html



Intercultural Living Exchange (ILE)

The mission of the Intercultural Living Exchange is to help students develop the intercultural competencies they will need to face the challenges of our global world. ILE is an innovative program that incorporates linguistic and cultural components while promoting diversity, student-faculty interaction and service learning, three vital elements in the fostering of student success at UMBC. The program, a residential community in Harbor Hall comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, promotes linguistic proficiency through the immersion of students in the language and culture of one of seven groups: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. The development of intercultural communication skills viewed as essential for success in today's ever- integrating world.

The goals of the ILE LLC are as follows:

- To give students a cultural matrix and affective context where they can go beyond stereotypes, understand, compare and contrast their own cultural values with those expressed in the target language and cultures;
- To engage students in collective conflict resolution issues, and diversity appreciation meant to encourage attitudinal and interpersonal skills that foster cooperation and sharing;
- To help students strengthen their personal and leadership skills, as well as their attitudinal and interpersonal skills by doing community service.

Program and Contact Information:

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Interdisciplinary Studies (INDS) Living-Learning Community

The Interdisciplinary Studies (INDS) LLC exists for students who are engaged in undergraduate degrees that span more than one traditional discipline. It offers an opportunity for these students to strengthen and enrich their undergraduate experience at UMBC by building community with each other and with faculty while learning about the unique challenges and opportunities that come with interdisciplinary scholarship. Students will engage in wide variety of activities that cross disciplinary boundaries, from movie/discussion nights to field-trips on and off campus, as they are encouraged to take full ownership of their degrees by discovering all that UMBC has to offer. While INDS majors will be given priority, we welcome students engaged in other interdisciplinary degrees, double majors or major/minor combinations who would like to delve deeper into what it means to combine two or more traditional areas of scholarship: all interested students are encouraged to apply.

The goals of the INDS LLC are as follows:

- Strengthen student's connections to peers, the INDS program and the larger UMBC community;
- Strengthen student's awareness of the importance of community to reaching full potential in interdisciplinary scholarship;
- Stimulate the development of student teams.

Program and Contact Information:

Stephen Freeland, Director
Interdisciplinary Studies
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Shriver Living-Learning Community

The Shriver Living Learning Community (SLLC) is an active and social living community with a deep interest in civic and social responsibility. As the first Living Learning Community established at UMBC in 2000, SLLC is directly connected with The Shriver Center at UMBC. The Shriver Center has touched and transformed the lives of thousands, applying the strengths of UMBC to create innovative programs that have achieved success. When students connect their passions through service, there is a dynamic convergence of learning and action, compassion and energy that increase their ability to solve problems, work well with others, and better understand their interests moving forward to be active participants in a global community.

SLLC members contribute to this community through their diverse majors, interests, and experiences. During the year, SLLC members commit to serving 3-5 hours each week at the service-learning placement of their choice. During the fall semester, students participate in a community-building experience through a one-credit seminar exploring civic engagement in broader context through the lens of the life and legacy of Sargent Shriver. This class integrates reflection of service and civic engagement opportunities around campus with guest speakers from UMBC and community organizations in and around Baltimore. SLLC members are introduced to the platform of BreakingGround. In the spring, SLLC members continue their exploration and discovery through grant proposals, events, speakers, and conferences.

The goals of the Shriver LLC are as follows:

- Strengthen relationship-building across members of a service-minded living-learning community;
- Increase awareness of a variety of community assets and needs;
- Explore necessary skills to advocate for oneself and others;
- Promote leadership development of LLC members;
- Research strategies to address social issues on campus at UMBC and the greater community.

Program and Contact Information:

Lori Hardesty, Assistant Director

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 The Shriver Center
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STEM Living-Learning Community

The STEM LLC provides opportunities for students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines to connect with other STEM students at UMBC. The STEM LLC will develop intentional connections and relationships among students and expose them to other STEM majors, expand perspectives, create peer mentoring, encourage participation in applied learning experiences, develop leadership skills, foster study group participation, and help with cultural/artistic appreciation. All students with STEM majors are eligible to apply, but preference will be given to students who are accepted into the STEM BUILD@UMBC Program.

Each semester, STEM LLC members will benefit from a series of student-planned activities, on and off campus, which will be organized around a science-related theme and supported by the new **BUILD Training Program (BTP)** at UMBC. Student involvement in the series groundwork will develop leadership skills and ensure that students are excited about the opportunities for fellowship and learning that they will plan.

The goals of the STEM LLC are as follows:

- Exposure to other students majoring STEM-related majors and academic programs;
- Expanded and diverse perspective;
- Offering peer mentoring opportunities to support students;
- Opportunities for community service involving the biomedical/behavioral sciences
- Active and intentional programming to support academic and career success

Program and Contact Information:

Kathy Sutphin, Assistant Dean
 College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences
 410-455-5827
sutphin@umbc.edu

Laura Ott, Active Learning Coordinator



STEM BUILD@UMBC
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Website: <http://cnms.umbc.edu/stemllc/>

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Living-Learning Community

The Visual and Performing Arts Living-Learning Community helps students broaden their understanding of art making and create essential connections across art disciplines. Residents share ideas and learn new skills in a supportive environment of dancers, actors, designers, composers, costumers, musicians and visual artists. Programs for the community offer movie nights, trips to performances, socials and discussions, all focused on the arts. The floor is known for the most passionate, impromptu late-night conversations on campus. It is the UMBC home for the majority of freshman and sophomore Linehan Artist Scholars.

The goals of the Humanities LLC are as follows:

- To broaden residents' exposure and understanding of the arts and contemporary creative processes;
- To encourage future attendance at art events, both on and off campus;
- To foster greater participation in the arts.

Program and Contact Information:

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Women Involved in Learning and Leadership (WILL) Living-Learning Community

The WILL program is a living-learning community where students practice leadership skills in a setting that promotes academic excellence and community engagement. Through WILL, students have the opportunity to meet with renowned speakers and activists, to live in the residence hall with other students committed to diverse gender and social justice issues and to work with feminist and other social change organizations. WILL students engage in leadership development opportunities, plan educational and advocacy programs, attend cultural events and participate in public service projects. Some of the events WILL students have organized include a weeklong global women's health action, workshops on feminist activisms, "This Is What A Feminist Looks Like" T-shirt making and The Clothesline Project.

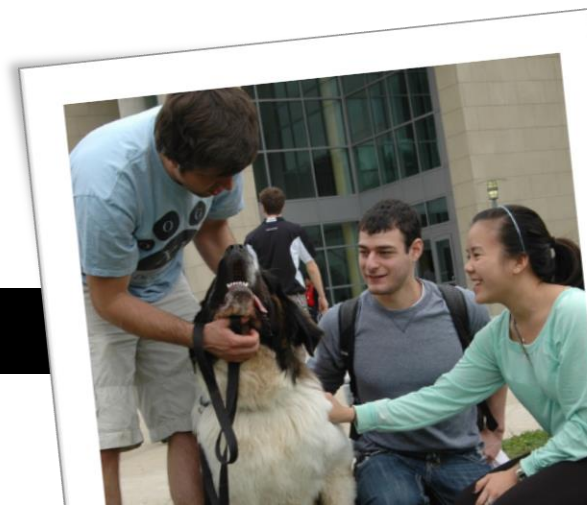
The goals of the Humanities LLC are as follows:

- To encourage critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and active learning opportunities which empower women as leaders, professionals, and engaged citizens during and after college
- To promote the self-esteem and self-confidence of its members
- To provide opportunities in and out of the classroom for women to explore career and life choices
- To promote support networks for women students in fields where they have historically been under-represented
- To foster a deeper understanding of women's diverse roles and contributions to society
- To increase awareness of obstacles women have faced and are facing, and to foster individual and collective strategies to address these issues
- To cultivate skills for living and working with people of diverse backgrounds and opinion.

Program and Contact Information:

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Creating a New Living-Learning Community – Building a Partnership of Success!

In Residential Life, we believe students are the innovators, leaders and community builders of the future who deserve a supportive and challenging environment in which to thrive. LLCs serve as a cornerstone for our work with students, allowing Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to come together in support of the holistic educational experience. Through collaborative partnerships, we can build vibrant residential learning communities that foster student learning, growth and development.

Student learning and student development are interwoven in unique and diverse experiences throughout college. LLCs provide a distinctive opportunity to engage students in classroom knowledge and community living through meaningful conversations and interactions with faculty, advisers and peers both inside and outside the classroom. Engaging students in the process of learning outside the classroom is a goal we share with our academic partners, and in Residential Life, we are committed to assisting with this endeavor. Whether your goal is enhanced student engagement, advancement of a specific research initiative or increased student involvement around a topic, an LLC can provide an ideal setting for reaching your goal.

Our role is to partner with faculty and staff to design spaces and foster communities where residents have seamless learning experiences. As we develop a comprehensive residential curriculum for all residents, each LLC will be able to build a program on a solid foundation focused on student development and learning. We are here to provide guidance, support and advice every step of the way in creation of new LLCs as well as enhancing or growing our current communities. We welcome new ideas for LLCs and look forward to working with our colleagues across campus in this endeavor.

Living-Learning Community Creation Planning Outline

- The Idea
 - Who will be the target population (majors, classifications, interests, affiliations)?
- LLC Leadership
 - Who will be the LLC Coordinator/Faculty Member(s)?
- Additional Resources (additional planning resources/contacts/supports that exist in your department):
 - Stakeholders – who will your planning team need to include?
 - Which faculty members are good matches for involvement (research, interests, and course connections)?
 - Which institutions of higher education have similar communities that you can contact?
- The LLC Program

- What will the community be named?
- What are 3-5 possible learning outcomes and/or goals for your LLC?
- What are the funding needs for the community?
- What will the funding sources be?
- Are there possibilities for linked courses or shared majors?
- Recruitment and Assessment
 - What types of staff positions will be needed (full-time, graduate, undergraduate)?
 - How will students be recruited?
 - What is your marketing plan (Residential Life will assist)?
 - What will the assessment plan be for the LLC?
 - How can you assess that you met your learning outcomes?

Essential Elements of a New Living-Learning Community Proposal

Goals and Learning Outcomes for the LLC

Each LLC will need to outline both general goals for the program and learning outcomes. General goals will explain why you want the LLC and the benefits of the program. The learning outcomes will help to define what students will learn and experience as a result of living on the floor. They can then be used to help provide feedback on the success of the programs. These outcomes should be both curricular and extra-curricular in nature.

LLC Faculty and/or Coordinator

Each LLC needs to have support for both the academic and co-curricular learning that is to occur both inside and outside of the classroom. This make up can come from any number of formulas.

- Faculty Coordinator—faculty support for LLC success is critical. This can be someone who is teaching a particular class that the students take, or a faculty member that will be coordinating the program
- Program Coordinators—staff or faculty members
- Peer Advisors

LLC Curriculum

Common Academic Class—This can be either one course that all students take as a co-hort, or a common course they all take but are not in the same section. This can be within one core major or cross over majors to provide a rich and diverse experience.

- IHU course
- Common course within your academic program

Off-Campus Experiences—This can present itself in a number of different options, but provides for a unique learning experience. It can range in a wide variety of options.

- Civic or Service Components
- Cultural or Educational Presentations or Exhibits (plays, museums, etc.)
- Field Experience

In Community Time with LLC Faculty/Coordinator—This time should be thought out in advance to ensure that coordinators are present on the floor throughout the year. Examples would include

- Academic Advising Session on the floor
- Class taught within the building (PAT and HBR both have classrooms)

- Social Programs (movie nights, floor dinners, etc.)
- Guest speakers in community
- Discussion groups
- Seminars or forums

Application of learning

- Active and collaborative learning—a major part of the experience is blending academics and their living environment. Creating a group project (service or academic) encourages students to collaborate and communicate with their peers

Living-Learning Community Creation Timeline

Creating an LLC is an excellent way to engage students, faculty and staff outside of the traditional classroom setting and can provide opportunities for academic and social support and growth.

Please consider these things as you begin to develop your LLC. Do you:

- have an interest in serving students outside of the classroom,
- have a desire to develop a streamlined environment in which students can thrive,
- wish to connect living and learning in the residential environment,
- strive to engage faculty and academic staff with your students to enhance success?

Please contact Jim Hague, Student Success Coordinator in Residence Life at jihague@umbc.edu or 410-455-5571 to start the collaboration process of LLC creation. In this two-semester process, you will work together with key constituents to develop goals, outcomes and activities for the community which will build an LLC that fits the needs of your student population of interest and your partnership level. After completing the process, you will be ready to unveil your newly founded LLC and begin gaining recognition for the hard work, dedication and successes of your students.

The process for the creation of a new LLC generally begins 12–14 months in advance of the grand opening of that community.

September

- Observe other communities and get to know others at UMBC involved in LLCs
- Identify the target population of students for your LLC (major/classifications/interests)
- Assess needs in student population
- Gain commitments from stakeholders and departmental leadership
- Identify leadership. Many may participate, but a single point of contact and driving force has been a best practice

October – November

- Submit your New LLC Proposal – be sure to include all of information listed under “Essential Elements of a New LLC Proposal” on page 18 of this document. Proposals should be submitted to Residential Life before the Thanksgiving holiday for review. All proposals can be forwarded to Residential Life.

December - January

- Meet with Residential Life to review the proposal and make plans for implementation of the LLC. Some actions that should be address immediately include:
 - Determining which residential community and floor the LLC will be located.
 - Discussed RA selection timeline and how the LLC is involved in the RA selection process.

- Consider LLC application process, committee and criteria for returning UMBC students
 - How many returning students will be allowed to live in the LLC? What will their role be in the LLC?
 - Do you need additional outside of the information that will be collected through the general LLC application?
- Create Web presence on academic department website
- Begin creation of marketing materials
- Formulate talking points to share information with stakeholders

February – March

- Outline programmatic elements (specific activities that will accomplish the learning outcomes)
- Identify incentives for faculty and staff participation
- Identify faculty and staff who will be involved and educate on roles. Doing so at this phase will allow for the best planning for the fall term
- Selection of LLC Resident Assistant
- Student Recruitment
 - Returning UMBC Students (currently living on-campus)
 - Identify any returning UMBC students you want to be a part of the LLC (peer mentors, etc.) and have them apply for LLC through their Housing Application.
 - First-Year Matriculating Students

April – May

- Host pre-training event for live-in Residential Life and Peer Adviser group. Educate on the mission of the LLC and start everyone's thought process on the "how to" of your community
- Create summer training modules for staff/peer advisers to complete over the summer
- Student Recruitment
 - First-Year Matriculating Students
- Participate in LLC Draft Day to determine placement of LLC students.
- Forward first-year matriculating student room assignment information by respective deadlines to Residential Life

June – July

- Introduction of community to students
 - Welcome packet, emails and newsletter, interest surveys, assignment of mentor or buddy
- Plan for staff training and orientation
- Plan for LLC Welcome Event

Welcome Week in late August

- Assessment
 - Pre-Test, Student Expectation Survey
- Introduce staff and partners to the community ("Who are the people in your neighborhood")
- Building Staff Welcome and Check-In, First Day Support
 - Coffee and donuts
 - Direction support
 - UMBC Welcome Week activities
- Table tents in rooms, student information cards
- First-Floor meetings, Community Agreements
- Social activities
- LLC Kick-Off Event



Recruiting Students to your Living-Learning Community

Current and incoming students have a variety of options and opportunities available to them at UMBC and being able to connect your LLC and program to students is essential. Recruiting students to your LLC should be a priority through the academic year, and here are a few suggestions on how to effectively recruit current and incoming UMBC students to your LLC.

Current and Returning Students (who currently live on-campus)

- Contact students from the LLC's academic program, department, or division and promote the LLC to them and any leadership (mentoring) experiences that would come from being a part of the LLC as an upperclass student.
- Forwarding LLC and application information to program, department or division newsletters or list-servs
- Create a MyUMBC posting about your LLC and how to apply.
- Request to present information about the LLC and the application process to academic classes with students who may be interested in the LLC.
- Work with Residential Life to target-market/promote your LLC to specific students currently living on campus (academic majors, minors, etc.).
- It is essential that all returning students who are recruited meet the general Housing Application Deadline. Students who submit applications after the deadline will be waitlisted for housing and not illegible for an LLC unless approved by the Director of Residential Life.

First-Year Matriculating Students

- Attend Admission Prospective Student and Newly Admitted Student Events during the academic year to promote the LLC.
- Distribute LLC and application information to prospective students associated academic programs and departments
- Contact students (via email, mailing, etc) who showed interest in LLCs or LLC-specific programming and services via their UMBC application.
- Work with Residential Life to target-market/promote your LLC to specific incoming students (academic major, minor, etc.).

Transfer and Commuting Students

- Presently, our LLCs cannot accept transfer or commuting students who apply for housing or a LLC. It is recommended that limited marketing and promotion is directed to our transfer and commuter student populations.



Housing Assignments for your Living-Learning Community

Our current and incoming students who have been selected to live in a LLC also need to have their room assignment and roommate pairing determined by the LLC Coordinator with support offered by the Student Success Coordinator and Program Management Specialist in Residential Life. As LLC Coordinators make room assignments and roommate pairings here are a few suggestions to make the process as consistent, transparent, and student-focused as possible.

Current and Returning Students (who currently live on-campus)

- It recommended to limit the number of returning students to your LLC as a majority of LLCs are focused primarily for first-year students.
- Request any special housing accommodation requests from their returning LLC students (i.e. specific room assignments, roommate requests, etc.)
 - It is recommended that LLC Coordinators create a system to collect this information as it won't be collected via the Housing Application.
- Current and returning students should be encouraged to fill all single rooms available within the LLC (if applicable).
- Current and returning students should be paired with other returning students where possible.
- Please communicate to current and returning LLC students who have been assigned to your LLC that they should NOT do anything else within the Housing Selection Process. These students will continue to get information about the Housing Process but they should NOT do anything else within the system after they have been approved to live in a LLC.
- A tentative floor plan with all returning students assigned to a room in the LLC will need to be submitted to Residential Life in early April.

First-Year Matriculating Students

- New students are encouraged to fill standard double rooms.
- New students are should not be assigned to singles unless they have an approved medical reason that has been communicated to you by Residential Life.
- New students should be paired with other new students where possible.
 - When making roommate assignments/pairing utilizing the six Roommate Matching Profile Questions that were answered as part of the students' housing application. The profile questions include and are order in level of importance based on feedback from our residents from most (1) to least (6) important:

1. Social Environment	4. Sharing with Roommate
2. Cleanliness	5. Temperature Preference
3. Noise-Level in Room	6. Go to Bed Time

- A tentative floor plan with all first-year students AND returning students assigned to a room in the LLC will need to be submitted to Residential Life in mid to late May.

Transfer and Commuting Students

- These students are not guaranteed housing and cannot be considered for a living-learning community unless previously approved by Director of Residential Life.
- If a transfer/commuter student contacts you about interest in an LLC, please feel free to contact Residential Life to determine their eligibility for your LLC/housing.

Informational Resources for Current LLCs at UMBC

Important Dates and Deadlines

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>August 22nd</u> - students move into residence halls. LLCs are encouraged to organize a welcome activity for the floor during welcome week or the second week of classes • <u>August 27th</u> at 6:00pm – LLC Kick-Off Event. All LLCs should encourage students to attend along with LLC Coordinators and Faculty. • <u>August 28th</u> - A list of fall 2015 co-curricular events should be sent to Residential Life
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final LLC Participation Reports/Rosters completed by Residential Life and shared with each LLC. • OUE/IA Funding Proposals Available and Due to the Office of Undergraduate Education • All marketing materials need to be update. LLC Faculty/Coordinators should submit new program descriptions, pictures, contact information, etc. for Admission and LLC Publications (post cards, half-sheets, websites, etc.)
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Life will update all Admission marketing materials and forward proofs of other promotional materials to LLC Faculty/Coordinators • Requests for LLC Location Change Request and Space Allocation can be submitted in early October to determine LLC Location, size, and additional needs for the upcoming academic year. • ACUHO-I Living-Learning Programs Conference
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para-professional (LLC RA) Information Sessions will be organized for prospective RA candidates. LLCs should encourage students who would make good LLC RAs to attend one of these sessions. • Residential Life will forward blank floor plans to LLC Coordinators for 2016-2017.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions Office mails out the first round of early action offers to the incoming Fall 2016 freshmen • Start recruiting current/returning UMBC students to your LLC for the 2016-2017 academic year.
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>January 29th</u> - Forward a list of upcoming spring semester co-curricular events to Residential Life • Continue recruiting current/returning UMBC students to your LLC and remind them of the Housing Deadline is TBA
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue recruiting current/returning UMBC students to your LLC and remind them of the Housing Deadline is TBA
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA – LLC Coordinators should communicate to all current LLC students and express if they have been approved to return to the LLC or not • TBA – the names of all students returning to an LLC are due to Residential Life • TBA – All current LLC students will receive specific instructions given their 2016-2017 LLC Status on how to move forward in the housing selection process.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA – LLC Coordinators should send Residential Life a tentative floor plan (with room assignments) of current/returning students who have been accepted to a LLC.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>May 1st</u> – Deadline for new first-year students to submit LLC applications via the online process • <u>May 10th from 2-4pm</u> – Annual New Student LLC Draft at Residential Life – All coordinators should attend or forward proxy information

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>May 23rd</u> – LLC Coordinators should send Residential Life a tentative floor plan (with room assignments) of new AND current/returning students who have been accepted to a LLC.
June-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>June 6th</u> – Undergraduate Education/Residential Life Joint End of Year Report Due <u>June 24th</u> – All floor and room assignments should be finalized and forward to Residential Life. After this date, LLC space reverts back to Residential Life for general student assignments. This date can be somewhat flexible. Please be in communication with Residential Life if you need assistance or suggestions for filling vacancies <u>Week of August TBA</u> – LLC Coordinator Meeting

Contact List for LLC Faculty, Coordinators, and Residential Life Staff

Center for Women in Technology (CWIT) Living-Learning Community – Chesapeake Hall, 1 North

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Erica D'Eramo	Assistant Director	CWIT	ITE 452	deramo@umbc.edu	5-8076
Kyle Bianchini	Community Director	Residential Life	Chesapeake	kbianchi@umbc.edu	5-1801
Kwame Robertson	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Chesapeake	PW39854@umbc.edu	

Discovery Scholars Living-Learning Community – Patapsco Hall, 2 West

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Jill Randles	Asst. Vice Provost	Undergraduate Education	Acad. IV, 114J	jrandles@umbc.edu	5-3715
Laila Shishineh	Assistant Director	Undergraduate Education	Acad. IV, 114L	lailams@umbc.edu	5-3737
Jenna D'Onza	Community Director	Residential Life	Patapsco	jdonza@umbc.edu	5-1701
Sabrina Banjo	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Patapsco	CZ85694@umbc.edu	

Honors College Living-Learning Community – Susquehanna Hall, 1 East

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Michael Stone	Academic Advisor	Honors College	AOK 216Q	michaelstone@umbc.edu	5-1616
Jodi Kelber-Kaye	Associate Director	Honors College	AOK 216D	jodik@umbc.edu	5-2164
Thomas Waters	Community Director	Residential Life	Susquehanna	twaters2@umbc.edu	5-1901
Jocelyn Wilkins	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Susquehanna	SZ98694@umbc.edu	

Humanities Living-Learning Community – Harbor Hall, 2 East

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Ana Oskoz	Associate Professor	Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication	Sherman 410	aoskoz@umbc.edu	5-8087
Malissa Rivera	Community Director	Residential Life	Harbor	malissar@umbc.edu	5-3575
Dana Pirzchalski	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Harbor	AW73417@umbc.edu	

Intercultural Living Exchange (ILE) Living-Learning Community – Harbor Hall, 2 South

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Marie Deverneil	Senior Lecturer	Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication	Sherman 14A	devernei@umbc.edu	5-2711
Fontella Bateman	Admin. Asst. II	Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication	Sherman 146	fbateman@umbc.edu	5-2109
Malissa Rivera	Community Director	Residential Life	Harbor	malissar@umbc.edu	5-3575
Xixi Chen	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Harbor	IA70490@umbc.edu	

Interdisciplinary Studies (INDS) Living-Learning Community – Erickson Hall, 3 South

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Stephen Freeland	Director	Interdisciplinary Studies	Fine Arts 546	freeland@umbc.edu	5-2024
Samirah Hassan	Admin. Asst. II	Interdisciplinary Studies	Fine Arts 545	shassan1@umbc.edu	5-2037
Laura Mack	Community Director	Residential Life	Erickson	lm@umbc.edu	5-3189
Lillianne Keplinger	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Erickson	NP42375@umbc.edu	

Shriver Living-Learning Community – Erickson Hall, 2 West

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Lori Hardesty	Assistant Director	Shriver Center	Public Policy, 140	lhardesty@umbc.edu	5-1615
Eloise Grose	Program Coordinator	Shriver Center	Public Policy, 140	elgrose1@umbc.edu	5-2493
Laura Mack	Community Director	Residential Life	Erickson	lm@umbc.edu	5-3189
Kathryn Hardy	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Erickson	K047816@umbc.edu	

STEM Living-Learning Community – Patapsco Hall, 1 East

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Kathy Sutphin	Assistant Dean	College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences	UC 116	sutphin@umbc.edu	
Laura Ott	Active Learning Coordinator	STEM BUILD @ UMBC	UC 116	leott@umbc.edu	5-8089
Jenna D'Onza	Community Director	Residential Life	Patapsco	jdanza@umbc.edu	5-1701
Steven Bailey	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Patapsco	AP47651@umbc.edu	
Danielle Leginze	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Patapsco	Y117290@umbc.edu	

Women Involved in Learning and Leadership (WILL) Living-Learning Community – Harbor Hall, 1 North

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Kathryn Drabinski	Lecturer	Gender and Women's Studies	Sherman 436	drabinsk@umbc.edu	5-6371
Malissa Rivera	Community Director	Residential Life	Harbor	malissar@umbc.edu	5-3575
Sidney Nelson	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Harbor	CG91931@umbc.edu	

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Living-Learning Community – Harbor Hall, 2 North

Name	Title	Department	Office	Email Address	Phone #
Doug Hamby	Associate Prof. and Director	Dance	Fine Arts 419	hamby@umbc.edu	5-2950
Malissa Rivera	Community Director	Residential Life	Harbor	jrbelice@umbc.edu	5-3575
Mia Rickenbach	Resident Assistant	Residential Life	Harbor	BW05214@umbc.edu	

Residential Life Office

Name	Title	Department	Office/Room	Email Address	Phone #
John Fox	Director	Residential Life	ERK 133	johnfox@umbc.edu	5-7402
Kaleigh Mrowka	Assistant Director	Residential Life	ERK 167	kmrowka@umbc.edu	5-1992
David Clurman	Assistant Director	Residential Life	ERK 168	dclurman@umbc.edu	5-3766

Expectations of Community Directors working with LLCs

- Effective supervision of RAs who work on LLC floors (see below).
- Contact your designated faculty/staff contact for each floor in summer. Meet with contact and your Assistant Director during the summer months. Goal of the meeting is to build relationships and begin discussions about the upcoming year.
- Plan an introduction meeting or program with community and faculty members (1) during the first two weeks of the fall semester and (2) prior to the end of the spring semester with the new RA for the LLC.
- When developing your curriculum, work with the RA and LLC contact person to address the outcomes of each specific LLC.
- Maintain bi-weekly contact with your LLC contact person (via email, phone or visits to their office).
- Keep LLC contact person informed of issues or incidents on the floor (while at the same time maintaining privacy).
- Arrange a monthly check-in meeting with your RA and the LLC contact person.
- Think of ways to have living learning communities collaborate on programs they are doing. Some programs will be of interest to more than one community. Also, if there are programs that can be opened to the entire community, make it happen. Be a catalyst for collaboration and connection between communities.
- Make sure that there is collaboration w/ LLC contact on program offerings.
- Be aware that faculty may have perspectives about the floor that are helpful. Also, help them through the interpersonal “intricacies” in residential communities.

Expectations of Resident Assistants working with LLCs

- Contact your designated faculty/staff contact for your program during training.
- Establish goals and objectives for the year with your CD and LLC contact person. In addition, establish programmatic goals for each semester. All programs do not have to cover the LLC theme. Be creative and have fun.
- Attend introduction meeting or program with community and faculty members (1) during the first two weeks of the semester and (2) prior to the end of the spring semester with the new RA for the LLC.
- Maintain weekly contact with your individual LLC contact person (via email, phone and or visits).
- Select 1-2 members of your Living Learning Community to serve on the Living Learning Council. You will also be a member of this council.
- Work with CD to keep LLC contact person informed of issues or incidents on the floor. Keep in mind that some issues are private and confidential and cannot be shared with others, including faculty.
- Meet monthly with your LLC contact person and CD.
- Keep residents informed about events/happenings in the host department/program (i.e. – postings, bulletin boards and word of mouth).
- Keep yourself informed of events/happenings in the host department/program.

- Create opportunities through programming and socials for the LLC residents to interact with other students in the hall.
- Collaborate on an initiative at least once each semester with the LLC student advisors.
- Don't get sucked into the drama. Due to high levels of interaction LLC residents may experience high levels of conflict. Maintain an objective perspective.