

Planning-Stage Learning Communities Application

NOTE:

Learning Communities project places special emphasis on learning communities development aimed at increasing student engagement, retention and success. We suggest you submit this application as soon as possible so that you can meet and brainstorm your ideas. Then produce a Tier III application in time to get approval for summer work and fall offerings.

For more information, contact Anne McGrail, Learning Communities Coordinator mcgraila@lanecc.edu or X3317.

Why use this application?

To encourage new learning community planning, we are offering three tiers of curriculum development funding. This is the Tier II Application for working towards a “blueprint” plan for your learning community.

- Tier I: (up to 5 hours) for initial brainstorming sessions with colleagues. Available at <http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/lcapp.html>

- **This is a Tier II application for up to 10 hours of early-stage planning sessions with the goal of a “blueprint.” If your funding request is approved, you must complete a detailed Tier-III application and meet with the Learning Communities Leadership Team to report on your progress. (Appointment can be made upon approval of funding.)**

- Tier III: (up to 100 hours including Tier I and Tier II funding, if applicable) for full planning and production of your learning community. Available at <http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/lcapp.html>

Below, you will find four parts to this application:

I. Information

II. Application

III. Approval Process and Signatures

IV. Budget Proposal

I. Information

Thank you for considering developing a learning community! This application form will guide you through the steps and considerations involved in the design of a successful learning community. The Learning Communities Leadership Team (LCLT) has learned through experience that a learning community that is well designed at the start avoids some of the institutional obstacles to innovation, and provides the most useful and enjoyable learning experience for students and faculty. This application provides the basis for the LCLT to approve (or help you to improve) your learning community.

A. Things to consider when designing a learning community.

The most successful learning communities....

- Are often designed with existing courses that meet degree requirements or that support other student goals.
- Demonstrate curricular coherence; courses reinforce and/or integrate ideas

- Are ideally “pure cohorts” in which all students in one course are registered for at least one other course in the learning community. This creates cross-fertilization of ideas and the best community building. However, successful learning communities have involved one “anchor” course and “satellite” courses linked to it.
- May have Reading Together or Service Learning components as part of their curriculum. For more information on how to do this, talk with the coordinators for these programs (Ellen Cantor cantore@lanecc.edu and Jennifer Von Ammon vonammonj@lanecc.edu respectively).
- Involve ideas which cross subject-matter boundaries
- Facilitate the move toward a richer, learning-centered environment
- Involve active and collaborative learning
- Explore and develop understanding of diverse perspectives
- Aid student retention and progress toward academic success
- Support faculty development
- Allow students to see faculty as learners—team teaching is encouraged!

II. Application

NOTE: Learning Communities is placing special emphasis on projects that help ensure student retention and success. If you want to know more about how your project might fit within this framework, please email Anne McGrail mcgraila@lanecc.edu. (It may mean placing your class/es at a time when most students are likely to be best prepared, it may be a curricular choice, etc.)

1. Name(s)

Contracted faculty _____

Non-contracted faculty _____

Proposed Title of Your Learning Community (Try to develop a “catchy,” provocative name that will attract students and reflect the nature of your Learning Community.)

2. Proposed idea for development of a Learning Community:

3. Possible courses considered for this learning community:

Prefix	Course Title	Credits	Instructor	Contact Information

4. In what ways do you see your learning community helping student retention and success?

5. Describe the other curricular goals of your learning community.

6. Service Learning and Reading Together. We encourage you to consider how you could incorporate Service Learning and Reading Together options into your learning community. Include any ideas you might consider here:

7. Provide your timeline for meetings between faculty requesting Tier II funds. When will you meet and topics on your agenda:

IV. Budget Calculations

If approved, this application provides for **up to 10 hours of early-stage CD planning sessions with the goal of a “blueprint”**. The goal of these early planning sessions is for faculty to produce an outline of the learning community, with faculty interested, etc. This outline could resemble the full application for the learning community (<http://lanecc.edu/lc/fresources/lcapp.html>). When your group has completed the Learning Community “blueprint” application, bring it to a meeting of the Learning Communities Leadership Team. The Team can offer guidance and suggestions for next steps in the planning of your learning community, including tips for Tier III funding.

Budget for Early Planning

Faculty who will participate:

Idea you wish to pursue:

Appointment for all colleagues to meet with LCLT (may be made now or at the end of the term of funding request):

Total Hours Requested:

$\$26.44 \times \# \text{ of hours} \times \# \text{ of Faculty} = \text{SubTotal}$:

$\text{SubTotal} \times .39 \text{ OPE} = \text{Total Request}$:

NOTE: If your funding request is approved, the Leadership Team will offer a target date based on your application at which time you should complete your blueprint for a Learning Community. (A blueprint would be similar to a Tier III application.) Submit this to Anne McGrail, Learning Communities Coordinator.