

University: North Carolina State University

Program: Living Learning Community

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Website for program: http://www.ncsu.edu/undergrad_affairs/assessment/assess.htm

Description of Program:

- *To whom is the strategy or initiative directed among first-year students?*

NC State is committed to enhancing students' learning and intellectual development especially during the first year of college. Learning communities enhance student learning by bringing faculty and students together to promote greater interaction with each other. This provides the opportunity for a deeper integration of the material being studied while offering opportunities for the student to become engaged with his/her surrounding community. The goals of the living learning communities program include the following:

- Promote student learning and academic success.
 - Provide a setting for students to become socialized to what it means to be a college student.
 - Provide a setting for academic and social support.
 - Focus faculty and students on learning outcomes.
 - Provide student with opportunities to increase critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and self-esteem.
 - Provide an opportunity for University Housing and Undergraduate Affairs to model a responsible and collegial partnership.
- *Among these targeted students, how many or what percentage participate or benefit? In not all targeted students participate, how are participants selected?*

While NC State has been engaged in Living Learning Communities for some time, this is the first year of this particular effort where inquiry guided learning has been coupled with an academic advising model and a strong student development living learning model. Participants in this pilot project self-selected into the living learning communities.

- *What connections does the program or strategy have to formal classroom experiences and learning outcomes?*

The program is connected to formal classroom experiences and learning outcomes by providing an opportunity for greater faculty student contact and by directing faculty's and student's attention and focus on learning outcomes.

- *What qualitative or quantitative assessment data are available to suggest effectiveness?*

We are currently in the process of collecting assessment data. We are comparing different living and learning communities (The First Year College, The First Year Initiative, The First Year College and First Year Initiative Learning Community Project, and traditional residence hall environment) for outcomes on critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and self-esteem using a longitudinal design. Students completed surveys in the beginning of the Fall semester and will complete the surveys again at the completion of the following spring semester.

- *How long has the program strategy been practiced? How has it evolved?*

This particular model of Living Learning Communities is a new practice here at NC State. It was implemented in the Fall of 2001.

- *Have others emulated the practice, or has it received formal recognition for effectiveness?*

To our knowledge, others have not emulated this practice. It has not received formal recognition. However, many institutions have held our First Year College up as Best Practices Model.

- *What is the source of funding? Is the funding available?*

The Living Learning Communities initiative is funded by the joint effort of Undergraduate Affairs and Residential Housing.