

Examples of Learning Community Structures

These are the most common configurations but do not exhaust the possible forms of linking classes.

1. Linked or Paired Courses

- Students co-register in paired classes.
- Faculty work to coordinate syllabi and assignments but teach their classes separately
- Often skill courses and content courses are linked together

Examples of paired classes from Lane:

- Fast Lane to Success: College Success and/or Effective Learning with a Writing, Math, Speech or other required Gen. Ed. Or Major class.
- Afro Blue: Ethnic Studies and English Composition
- BioBonds: Chemistry and Biology
- EcoTrails: Global Ecology and English Composition
- Food for Thought: Culinary Arts and Math and Writing
- Thinking Indian: Anthropology and Writing
- Transitions to Success: Life Transitions and Career and Life Planning

Examples of paired classes from other colleges:

- "The Galactic Village": Astronomy and English classes (Bellevue Community College)
- "Culture, Poverty and Diet": Sociology and Nutrition Classes (Skagit Valley Community College)
- "Everything but the Kitchen Sink": Material Science/Welding and Developmental English Composition Class (Clark College)

2. Course or learning clusters:

- Students enroll in 3-4 courses linked together by a common theme
- A cohort of students enroll in all classes
- Faculty coordinate syllabi and assignments
- Often include an integrative seminar

Examples of Course or Learning Clusters:

"Earth Trek: An Examination of the Relationship of Nature and Humanity"
Environmental Biology, English Composition and Art (Spokane CC)

3. Coordinated Studies Learning Communities

- Three or more courses that often form a full load (12-15 credits)
- Fully team-taught as an integrated program; all faculty present in all classes
- Cohorts of students enroll
- A team-taught 3 class model would enroll 60-75 students and be comparable to 9 conventional classes; three for each instructor
- Faculty participate as learners as well as teachers
- Most difficult to establish but most rewarding for faculty and students

Examples of Coordinated Studies at Lane and Elsewhere:

- Go For Baroque: Humanities, History, Literature, Writing and Music Classes

- "Of Mice and Matter: A Successful Journey through the Scientific Maze": General Biology, Introduction to Chemistry and Learning Strategies (Bellevue Community College)
- "Women in History, Literature and Film": Women's Literature, English Composition and Women's Studies (North Seattle Community College)
- "Leonardo to Voltaire: A Renaissance of Ideas and Images": Western Civilization, Art, English Composition and Library Studies Classes (Spokane Falls Community College)

4. Team-Taught course pairs

- Similar to coordinated studies but only involves 2 team-taught classes

Examples of Team-taught course pairs:

- "Lighting the Green Fuse"
English Composition and Field Botany (Skagit Valley College)
- "Journey to Ground Zero: Humans and the Desert"
Art and English Classes (Solano Community College)
- "China Business and International Trade"
Business Management and Eastern Asian Studies Classes (Western Washington University)