

Learning Community Survey

Introduction and Instructions

Here is a complete listing of the items available on the Learning Community Survey. We encourage you to use this instrument as a way to gather useful information about students' experiences in your learning community.

The survey, available through Qualtrics, is designed to allow coordinators to customize the instrument to match individual learning outcomes. Please select relevant items from the template in an effort to gather the most useful data. The "Common Core" questions (question 1 through 41) represent a set of items that we hope most coordinators will include in the survey. Please note, however, that you may elect to eliminate some of these questions (e.g., Peer Mentor items) if they are not relevant to your students' experiences. The "Outcome Modules" (questions 42 to 75) provide several sets of questions designed to measure specific outcomes. Please remove any questions that do not align with the learning outcomes or experiences in your individual learning community. Please contact Jen Leptien (jenl@iastate.edu, 4-1948) if you need assistance in customizing the instrument.

After you've completed the administration of the survey, we encourage you to contact Jen Leptien (jenl@iastate.edu, 4-1948) for assistance in analyzing the data. Qualtrics has a number of automated processes that will provide you with a summary of the data along with some graphical information.

Common Core [q1 to q42]

Satisfaction with Learning Community

*Please indicate your **satisfaction** with your **learning community experience***

(Very Dissatisfied, Somewhat Dissatisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Strongly Satisfied)

1. Overall satisfaction with your learning community experience. [q1]
2. Satisfaction with the social activities in your learning community. [q2]

Please answer the following question using the scale below.

(Strongly Discourage, Somewhat Discourage, Somewhat Encourage, Strongly Encourage)

3. Would you recommend joining a Learning Community to a friend or prospective student? [q3]

Open-ended

4. Please explain why you would or would not recommend joining a learning community? [q4]

University Experience

*My participation in a **learning community** has improved:*

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. my sense of belonging in the ISU community. [q5]
2. my opportunity to interact with ISU faculty and staff. [q6]
3. my sense of social support at ISU. [q7]
4. my interest in continuing my education at ISU. [q8]

5. my adjustment to academic challenges. [q9]
6. the quality of my overall experiences at Iowa State. [q10]
7. my connections to other clubs and university activities [q11]
8. my awareness of resources on-campus [q12]
9. my ability to get to know students who have similar interests [q13]
10. my opportunities to become more involved in community activities (volunteering, service learning, civic organizations) [q14]
11. my communication with professors [q15]
12. my participation in study groups [q16]
13. my ability to effectively and comfortably interact with people from other cultures or ethnic groups [q17]
14. my understanding of diverse cultures and values [q18]
15. my knowledge of issues and problems facing the world [q19]
16. my adjustment to academic challenges. [q20 – Note this is a repeat of q9 so please delete]

Learning Experiences

My involvement in a learning community has helped me to:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. see connections among my classes (e.g., learning in one class supported or expanded on what I learned in another class). [q21]
2. see connections between my personal experiences and class learning. [q22]
3. better understand the nature of my anticipated major. [q23]
4. apply what I learn in class to real world problems. [q24]
5. practice the skills I am learning or have learned. [q25]
6. find support for helping my learning [q26]
7. improve my study skills [q27]
8. become involved in service learning activities [q28]

Peer Mentor

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. Overall my peer mentor has been helpful. [q29]
2. My peer mentor provides me with useful information. [q30]
3. My peer mentor facilitates interactions among learning community participants. [q31]
4. I have regular interactions with my peer mentor. [q32]
5. My peer mentor encourages learning community participants to study together. [q33]
6. My peer mentor has kept me informed about upcoming learning community activities. [q34]
7. My peer mentor has helped me to learn about university resources [q35]
8. My peer mentor has helped me to succeed in my classes [q36]

Open-ended

9. In what ways has having a peer mentor been beneficial to you? [q37]
10. How could your peer mentor have better assisted you? [q38]

General Open-ended

1. Why did you choose to join a learning community? [q39]
2. What was the most satisfying aspect of your learning community? [q40]
3. What was the most disappointing aspect of your learning community? [q41]
4. Do you have any comments and suggestions for your learning community? [q42]

Outcome Modules [q43 to q76]

Residential Living Experiences (for LCs with residential component)

My learning community living experience helped me to:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. get to know students who have similar interests. [q43]
2. adjust to the university environment. [q44]
3. become more active in learning community activities. [q45]
4. participate in study groups. [q46]
5. form close friendships. [q47]

Oral Communication

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to make formal class presentations [q48]
2. ability to argue a point of view assertively [q49]
3. confidence in participating in class discussions. [q50]
4. comfort with asking questions in classes. [q51]

Written Communication

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to produce well-written papers that would receive a grade of “B” or better. [q52]
2. ability to write the types of technical, critical, review, or creative papers typical for my discipline with a grad of “B” or better. [q53]
3. ability to organize my written communication. [q54]

Critical Thinking

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas. [q55]
2. ability to apply academic knowledge and reason to current problems. [q56]
3. ability to think of different ways to solve problems. [q57]
4. effort to think about ideas and beliefs different from my own. [q58]

Teamwork

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to work cooperatively and productively with others. [q59]
2. ability to effectively listen to others, enabling me to clearly understand what is being said and reflect that understanding back to the speaker. [q60]
3. ability to interact with others and contribute to group discussions. [q61]
4. ability to put team goals above my own personal goals. [q62]

Leadership (seems positional focus)

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to persuade others to follow my lead. [q63]
2. ability to inspire others through my leadership. [q64]
3. ability to bring people with different viewpoints together to cooperate on a project. [q65]
4. ability to facilitate group interactions. [q66]
5. connection with other leadership opportunities on campus. [q67]

Time Management

My learning community experience improved my:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. ability to manage my time effectively. [q68]
2. ability to prioritize tasks to be performed for a project. [q69]
3. ability to coordinate multiple tasks or projects. [q70]

Career

My learning community experience:

(Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree)

1. helped me develop connections with professionals from my career area of interest [q71]
2. helped me improve skills that are needed for my future career [q72]
3. enhanced my knowledge of career choices and options in my anticipated discipline or field of study [q73]

Self –understanding

1. ability to identify my personal strengths [q74]
2. awareness of my learning style [q75]
3. have had experiences this semester that “fit together” in helping me meet my goals as a student [q76]