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# Five Models of Integrated Learning Communities

Each model represents an approach to learning that involves linking course around a common theme or question so students have opportunities for greater integration of the material and a more comprehensive understanding of the natural linkages among disciplines.

## ● Linked or Paired Courses

This is the simplest form of the learning community, in which two courses are paired. Co-registration is encouraged, but not mandatory. Each course is taught separately, but there may be some joint assignments, projects and discussions.

## ● Freshman Interest Groups (FIG)

In this model, a cohort of freshmen enrolls as a small group (35-30 students) in three in-place, topically related courses. No faculty co-planning is expected, although faculty may participate in an orientation event for students in a FIG. Students in the FIG meet regularly with a peer advisor, and may participate in social events as a group.

## ● Learning Clusters

This model is characterized by a cluster of 2-4 courses which are linked by common themes, historical periods, issues, or problems. The extent of faculty co-planning varies; usually there are some common sessions or assignments. Students co-enroll in the courses, but there are other students in the courses who are not co-enrolled.

## ● Federated Learning Communities (FLC)

A cohort of students and a "Master Learner" enroll in three "federated", in-place courses. They also participate in a content-synthesizing seminar. The Master Learner is a faculty from a different discipline who takes the courses along with the students and leads a program seminar.

## ● Coordinated Studies Programs

This is considered the most "seamless" of all the ILC models. This model is characterized by a multidisciplinary program of study involving a cohort of students and faculty drawn from different disciplines. Faculty plan and participate in all parts of the program. Courses are integrated into a "block" around a central theme. There is generally no distinction among discrete courses.

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