First-Year Communities align with CI’s Mission Pillars - Multicultural, International, Integrative, and Community Engagement - to support academic success and integration into university life for incoming first-year students, both inside and outside the classroom. Peers who have been in your shoes support First-Year Learning Communities, whether Embedded Peer Mentors in classes or Resident Advisors in Housing. Learning Communities and Living-Learning Communities include peer-led Dolphin Interest Groups (DIGs) occurring all year long.

Students in the same Learning Community or Living-Learning Community take designated sections of two courses together in Fall, and most continue with at least one course together in Spring. Courses meet General Education, major and/or graduation requirements.

Participation in Learning Communities is shown to improve student learning, persistence, time to graduation, and fosters stronger relationships with peers and faculty. Our goal is student success. There is no additional cost to participate.

Living-Learning Communities
Students share a common intellectual and residential experience. Two General Education courses are paired to promote student success and align with a CI Mission Pillar in Fall, and students take at least one course together in Spring. Students can live on LLC floor in campus housing, but do not have to.

Learning Communities
Two General Education or major pre-requisite courses are taken together in Fall to promote student success and align with a CI Mission Pillar. Students take one course together in Spring. Students are not required to live in campus housing.

How Do I Join?
Enrollment in First-Year Communities is first-come, first-served. There are limited seats.

- First-year students may be pre-registered in First-Year Community classes before Freshman Island View Orientation (FIVO) begins. Take the Learning Community Interest Survey at https://www.csuci.edu/academics/learningcommunities/
- Space permitting, students may add Learning Community courses during self-registration before FIVO, or in their Academic Advising session at FIVO. If your preferred community is full, contact marie.francois@csuci.edu to be placed on a waitlist.
- Placement in a Living-Learning Community option also requires completion of the housing application and payment of all applicable fees if the student lives on campus.

To learn more about first-year communities, visit our website!
https://www.csuci.edu/academics/learningcommunities/
Michele Serros LLC
Named for the late Michele Serros, a nationally-recognized and celebrated Chicana author/poet from Oxnard, this community engages students in critical dialogue on educational empowerment, creativity, community advocacy, multiculturalism, social justice and equity, and will foster a sense of familia and support for all.

COURSES
In the Fall, students take 6 units together: UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and CHS 100 Introduction to Chicana/o Studies. In the Spring, students take 3 units together: HIST 270 U.S. to 1877.

FALL PROFESSORS
Jennie Luna & Raul Moreno Campos

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
• Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E) and CHS 100 Ethnic Studies (F) + Multicultural Graduation Requirement
• Spring: HIST 270 - American Institutions Graduation Requirement

Bedford & Dr. Irene Pinkard LLC
This community honors the continued legacy of Bedford and Dr. Irene Pinkard, founders of the Ventura County Chapter of Black American Political Association of California, and their work in under-served communities of Ventura County. The community develops leadership and mentoring skills to encourage a sense of belonging at CSUCI, critically analyze issues that impact the Black and other vulnerable populations of the world, and imagine and create more inclusive futures.

COURSES
In the Fall, students take 6 units together: UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and AFS 202 Introduction to Africana Studies. In the Spring, students take 3 units together: ENGL 160 Genre Fiction - Afro Cyber Punk.

FALL PROFESSORS
Shanté Morgan-Durisseau & Raquel Baker

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
• Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E) and AFS 202 - Ethnic Studies (F)
• Spring: ENGL 160 - Arts (C1)

Windows on the World (WOW) LLC
This community promotes academic success and students’ transition to college life through a focus on global institutions, cultures, and perspectives, in historical times and today.

COURSES
For Fall, students take 6 units together: UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and COMM 101 Public Speaking. In Spring, students take 3 units together: HIST 211 World History: Origins to 1500.

FALL PROFESSORS
Francois Zdanowicz & Shaina Salin

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
• Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E) and COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1).
• Spring: HIST 211 - Social Sciences (D).

Student Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) LLC
This community partners with the Santa Rosa Island Research Station, and is about curiosity, inquiry, creativity and discovery with an interdisciplinary focus. This community includes travel to Santa Rosa Island.

COURSES
For Fall, students take 6 units: UNIV 198 Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research and COMM 101 Public Speaking. For Spring, students take 3-4 units: ANTH 104 Introduction to Bioanthropology and its optional lab, ANTH 104L.

FALL PROFESSORS
Jaime Matera & Emily Saunders

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
• Fall: UNIV 198 - Critical Thinking (A3) and COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1).
• Spring: ANTH 104 - Life Sciences (B2) and Laboratory (B3) for the optional lab, ANTH 104L.

UNIV 150-06 (Class #2087) MW 2:00pm-3:50pm
CHS 100-01 (Class #1050) TTH 10:30am-11:45am

OR

UNIV 150-07 (Class #2088) MW 4:00pm-5:50pm
CHS 100-01 (Class #1050) TTH 10:30am-11:45am

UNIV 150-10 (Class #2091) TTH 12:00pm-1:50pm
AFS 202-01 (Class #2711) W 12:00pm-2:50pm

UNIV 198-01 (Class #1904) MW 12:00pm-1:15pm
COMM 101-05 (Class #1354) TTH 1:30pm-2:45pm
Outdoor Adventures LLC
This Community is about being grounded in the natural world and using it as both a lens and a mirror. Students will explore how dependent upon the natural world our society truly is and how understanding this has direct relevance for every aspect of our society - from social justice to enlightened self-interest.

COURSES
For Fall semester, students take 6 units together: ESRM 100 Introduction to Environmental Science and Resource Management and UNIV 150 First Year Seminar. For Spring semester, students take 3 units together: COMM 101 Public Speaking.

FALL PROFESSORS
Suzanne Soule & Mary Woo

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
- Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E); ESRM 100 - Life Sciences (B2) or Social Sciences (D)
- Spring: COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1)

COURSE PAIRS
UNIV 150-02 (Class #2083) MW 10:00am-11:50am
ESRM 100-03 (Class #1907) TTH 9:00am-10:15am

Enrolling in a First-Year Community
Placement is on a first-come, first-served basis in the co-requisite block of classes. Interested students should complete the Learning Community Interest Survey (priority deadline is June 7, 2021) to be considered for pre-registration in a Learning Community.

Visit https://www.csuci.edu/academics/learningcommunities/ for the survey.

You can also self-register in the co-requisite block of classes, space permitting, ahead of Freshman Island View Orientation; be sure to have both courses in your “shopping cart” in order to add the classes. You can also ask about enrolling in open seats during your Advising session at IVO.

If your preferred Community is full, contact marie.francois@csuci.edu to be placed on a waitlist.

Learning Communities
Students Can Live On or Off Campus

Discovery Multicultural LC
This community centers on intercultural communication, social justice, and identity formation. Open to all and is especially suited to those still deciding on a major.

COURSES
In Fall, students take 6 units together: UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and COMM 101 Public Speaking. In Spring, students can be pre-registered into 3 units together: ENGL 105 Composition and Rhetoric.

FALL PROFESSORS
Shanté Morgan-Durisseau & David Parsons

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
- Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E); COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1)
- Spring: ENGL 105 - Written Communication (A2)

PAIRED COURSES
UNIV 150-11 (Class #2092) TTH 2:00pm-3:50pm
COMM 101-06 (Class #1355) TTH 4:30pm-5:45pm

Discovery International LCs
Students in these communities will develop critical thinking skills through exploring international perspectives and topics such as international relations or immigration.

COURSES
For Fall semester, students take 6 units together: UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and ENGL 102 Strategies for Successful College Writers. For Spring semester, students take 3 units together: ENGL 105 Composition and Rhetoric.

FALL PROFESSORS
Francois Zdanowicz & Emily Spitler-Lawson

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS
- Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E)
- Spring: ENGL 105 - Written Communication (A2)

COURSE PAIRS
#1 UNIV 150-04 (Class #2085) MW 12:00pm-1:50pm
ENGL 102-08 (Class #1027) T 10:00am-11:50am

OR
UNIV 150-08 (Class #2089) TTH 10:00am-11:50am
ENGL 102-05 (Class #1024) M 2:00pm-3:50pm

#2
Discovery Integrative LCs

This community links the interdisciplinary UNIV 150 First Year Seminar with a General Education statistics course. These communities satisfy a requirement in many majors.

COURSES

In Fall, students take 6 units together. UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and either MATH 201 Elementary Statistics or MATH 202 Biostatistics (cross-listed as PSY 202). In Spring, students have the option of taking either COMM 101 Public Speaking or ENGL 105 Composition and Rhetoric.

FALL PROFESSORS

Suzanne Soule & Christina Soderlund (201) or Nathanael Reid (202)

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS

- Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E) and MATH 201 or 202 - Quantitative Reasoning (B4)
- Spring: COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1) or ENGL 105 - Written Communication (A2)

COURSE PAIRS

#1

UNIV 150-05 (Class #2086) MW 2:00pm-3:50pm
MATH 201-02 (Class #2509) TTH 10:30am-11:45pm

OR

UNIV 150-09 (Class #2090) TTH 10:00am-11:50am
MATH 202-02 (Class #2576) MW 1:30pm-2:45pm

#2

Health Care LC

This community is for students interested in Nursing, Health Sciences, and related fields.

COURSES

In Fall, students take 7 units together, UNIV 150 First Year Seminar and BIOL 210 Human Anatomy and Physiology I and its associated lab. In Spring, students take 7 units together, COMM 101 Public Speaking and BIOL 211 Human Anatomy and Physiology II and its associated lab.

FALL PROFESSORS

Jessica Hasson & Lorna Profant

GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS

- Fall: UNIV 150 - Critical Thinking (A3) or Lifelong Learning (E) and BIOL 210 - Meets GE and requirements for the Nursing program and Health Science major.
- Spring: COMM 101 - Oral Communication (A1), BIOL 211 - Meets GE and requirements for the Nursing program and Health Science major.

PAIRED COURSES

UNIV 150-12 (Class #2093) TTH 2:00pm-3:50pm
BIOL 210-02 (Class #1177) MWF 11:00am-11:50am
BIOL 210-10L (Class #1188) TTH 2:00pm-3:50pm

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to take more courses than those associated with my selected first-year community?

Yes, you will need to choose more courses. The courses for First-Year Communities are not a full load of classes, which is 12-15 units. You can round out your schedule during self-registration ahead of Island View Orientation.

NOTE: Once enrolled in a First-Year Community, be sure to pay attention to the Spring LC or LLC courses when you register for other Fall classes so you don't register for a class your LC/LLC offers in the Spring.

Can I enroll in any section of a course that is part of a community?

No, you must be enrolled in specific designated sections of each course in the Community as noted on this flyer, along with the rest of the students in your cohort. The courses are linked together in the registration system, dropping one of them will trigger dropping the other.

Contact Information

For questions about Living-Learning Communities, contact:

Dr. Gary Gordon, II
Director of Residential Education
gary.gordon@csuci.edu

Venessa Griffith
First-Year Communities Coordinator
venessa.griffith@csuci.edu

Dr. Marie Francois
University Experience Program Director & Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies
marie.francois@csuci.edu

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